

# —CLASSIC— TAILORING TECHNIQUES

A CONSTRUCTION GUIDE FOR MEN'S WEAR



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# 1 Tailoring

The art of tailoring can be traced back at least to the fourteenth century, when it became fashionable in Europe to add an underlayer of padding in the chest area of men's jackets. Rather than taking its form from the contours of the wearer's body, the garment fabric was cut and carefully shaped to fit over the padded form. Through the ages the padding was extended, according to fashion, to the sleeves, the shoulders, even to the stomach area. The padded understructure provided what was considered to be improvements over the contours of the body. It also enabled the garment fabric to lie neatly, relatively unaffected by the body's wrinkling movements.

The construction techniques developed to create these structured garments were quite different from those used to produce shirts and dresses. By the sixteenth century the makers of men's jackets had formed a separate branch of the clothing makers' guilds, complete with precise specifications for the quality and color of padding materials and linings for gentlemen's silk brocade jackets.

Not until the early nineteenth century did careful fit become a criterion of well-tailored garments. The understructure remained, but the shaping became more subtle, its purpose now being to complement rather than to distort the natural lines of the body. Great attention was also given to the flawless lay of the garment fabric over the canvas form. The lapel was to roll gracefully open at the chest, without pulling the garment forward, away from the body. All edges of the jacket were to belie the existence of the several layers of fabric beneath, by being flat and sharp, without noticeable bulk. The collar, and all curved edges of the garment were to incline

ever so slightly inward toward the body, a graceful avoidance of the awkward, upward curl of collar tips and pocket flaps. Pockets were never to gape open when not in use, and vents were expected to lie flat and firm. The result was a clean definition of design lines, a controlled yet graceful presentation of the garment fabric, impeccable fit, form and detail.

The construction techniques presented in this book and practiced today, with minor variations, by the finest tailors all over the world, have changed very little in the past 100 years. Although new machines and new methods of fusing layers of fabric together offer today's tailor speedy alternatives to time consuming handwork, relatively few of these faster methods have been adopted by custom tailors. The sewing machine is used for almost all seams and darts, but almost 75 percent of all stitches in a custom-tailored suit are still done by hand, to ensure the most accurate shaping of the fabric. The new fusible interfacings are being used by most custom tailors to reinforce certain small areas, such as dart tips or the inside of some pockets, however, they are not considered acceptable substitutes for the multi-layered, hand-stitched canvas interfacing which gives body to the entire front of the jacket.

Today's tailors continue to practice their art almost exactly as it was practiced a century ago. Not because slower is necessarily better, but because these methods produce body and form, detail and durability which newer faster methods of tailoring are simply unable to equal.

We encourage you to enjoy the tailoring process as much as its beautiful product, and to afford yourself the necessary time and patience to become proficient in these time-honored skills.





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## Straight Pins

Either dressmaker pins, which are of medium thickness, or silk pins, which are somewhat thinner, are appropriate for tailoring needs.

## Basting Thread

White cotton thread #40–#50, easy to break for removal when necessary.

## General Sewing Thread

Mercerized cotton thread, #0 or #00, or size A, *silk thread*, is suitable for both hand and machine stitching.

## Buttonhole Twist

*Silk tailor's twist #8* is best for making hand-worked buttonholes. It is also used for sewing on buttons. The twist comes on large spools, six strands of silk loosely intertwined. The strands are separated and used singly. If tailor's twist is unavailable, *size D, buttonhole twist*, will do.

## Gimp

Stiff cord, in a color close to that of the garment fabric. Used to reinforce the edges of hand-worked buttonholes.

## Beeswax

Used by tailors to coat thread for hand sewing, to prevent the thread from knotting and gnarling. For hand topstitching the thread is also pressed between sheets of paper after having been drawn through the beeswax. This process keeps the several strands, which constitute the thread, flat and uniform.

## Tailor's Thimble

Worn as a protection for the middle finger, the area which covers the fingernail is used to push the needle through the fabric. Tailor's thimbles are open at the top for comfort.

## Needles

Hand sewing needles for tailoring come in a variety of lengths and widths, in categories called *sharps* and *betweens*. *Betweens* are shorter, stronger needles. *Sharps* are medium to long in length. Within each category, the needle sizes are numbered. The higher the number, the shorter and thinner the needle. A #7 sharp needle might easily take you from beginning to end of your tailoring project.

## Buttons

The button size is measured across the diameter in "lines," 40 lines to the inch. 30-line buttons are used on the jacket front, 24-line buttons can be used for the sleeves, the lining pocket, the vest front, and for the trouser fly and back pocket. Dull bone or horn buttons are most attractive on the classic suit. Plastic buttons break easily and sharp edges in the hole of the button often tear the thread.

## Pants Hooks

Special pants hooks are available which are not sewn in, but clamped in place for greater strength (see page 206).

## Zipper

Use a strong zipper with metal teeth for the pants fly; one which is at least 1" (2.5 cm) longer than the fly measurement.

## Muslin

A lightweight cotton fabric, from which tailors make a prototype of the suit. Used to check fitting details.



# UNDERSTRUCTURE SUPPLIES



## Wool Canvas Interfacing

Woven from wool and hair fibers, used as a supporting fabric for the jacket front. The interfacing adds shape and body to the garment fabric, and reduces wrinkling. It should be soaked in cool water, allowed to drip dry and pressed before use, to ensure against its shrinking in the finished garment.

## Pocketing Fabric

Soft, strong cotton fabric, tightly woven and without sizing. Used to form the insides of pockets, and as a stay, or reinforcement for several areas on the jacket and pants.

## Haircloth

A stiff interfacing fabric woven from cotton and hair fibers. Used to add body to the canvas in the chest and shoulder area of the jacket front.

## Lining

A lightweight, smooth fabric of rayon, silk or polyester. Used to cover the understructure of the jacket, and to help in sliding the jacket on and off comfortably. Despite being lightweight and soft, the lining must be strong enough to endure constant, long-term wear.

## Prepadded Collar Melton

Two fabrics—French canvas and melton—machine-pad-stitched together, from which the jacket undercollar is constructed. The melton should be of a color that matches or coordinates with the color of the garment fabric. Since this

prepared undercollar fabric is often difficult to find in the color or quality desired, tailors often buy the melton and canvas separately and hand-stitch them together.

## Undercollar Melton

A strong wool fabric in a color that coordinates with the garment fabric. Used to give crisp body and sharp edges to the jacket collar.

## French Canvas

A stiff, linen interfacing. Used both in the undercollar and as added support for the canvas in the shoulder area at the front of the jacket.

## Flannel Cover Cloth

A soft cotton flannel fabric, usually in white or grey, which is placed on top of the haircloth to prevent the stiff hair fibers from scratching the wearer.

## Waistband Interfacing

Two layers of stiff interfacing sewn together across the top. Used to give support to the garment fabric in the waistband.

## Shoulder Pads

Gracefully shaped layers of cotton wadding covered with muslin. Used to define shoulder area.

## Sleeve Head

A strip of cotton wadding or lamb's wool, reinforced with a bias strip of wool canvas interfacing, sewn into the cap of the sleeve. The head fills out the sleeve cap and helps create the graceful fall of the sleeve fabric.

## Cotton Twill Tape

$\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) wide, used to define the outer edges of the lapel and jacket front, and to control the lapel roll line. The tape should be soaked in cool water, and pressed before use to ensure against shrinkage in the finished garment.

# HAND STITCHING

If you are not used to hand sewing, we can almost guarantee that you will begin by:

- Cutting your thread much too long
- Pulling your stitches much too tightly
- Resisting the use of a thimble until your finger begins to bleed.

If you can manage to pass through this beginning stage quickly, you will save yourself a great deal of aggravation.

Using a very long thread does not necessarily mean that you will be threading your needle less often. On the contrary, it usually means that your thread will gnarl and tangle, and that you will have to break off the tangled area repeatedly, losing all satisfaction in your work. Use a comfortable length of thread, one which does not require you to stretch your arm with each stitch. If you still have trouble with tangles, draw the thread through a piece of beeswax.

Tightly pulled stitches are usually placed with great care and concentration, and unfortunately, their intensity is usually clearly visible on the front of the garment. There is just no need to nail the layers of fabric this tightly together. Any stitch which goes through to the right side of the garment should pick up only one thread of the garment fabric, and should be drawn softly enough to leave that fabric thread's appearance unchanged on the right side of the fabric.

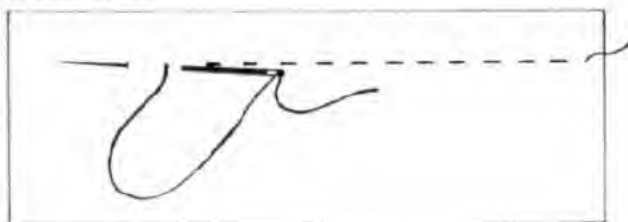
A thimble is more necessary in tailoring than in other hand sewing, because of the added pressure needed to drive the needle through several layers of fabric. The tailor's thimble is open at the top for comfort. The fingernail area of the thimble, instead of the top, is pressed against the needle. Simply place the thimble on the middle finger of the hand you sew with, and your finger will figure out how best to use it.

Innumerable rows of *basting* are required in producing a tailored garment. Basting is more accurately done if the two layers of fabric to be joined are laid flat on the table to avoid shifting. With one hand holding the fabric flat in place, and the other hand placing the stitch, your work will progress quickly and accurately.

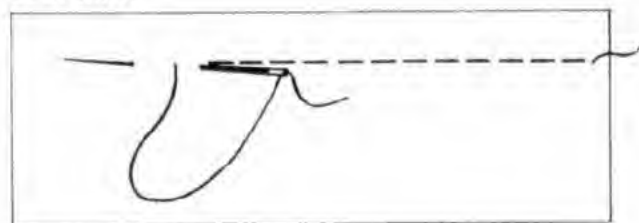
Basting stitches, like other hand stitches, should be placed without tension. Since these are temporary stitches, more attention should be given to their location than to their appearance. Each row of basting is begun with a backstitch to secure the thread. Basting thread is never knotted at the end, since knots would make the eventual removal of the basting more difficult and more hazardous to the fabric.

The most common hand stitches are illustrated here. Others will be presented throughout the text as their need arises.

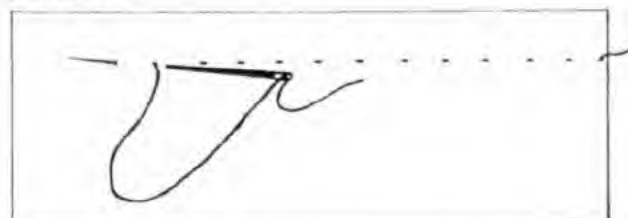
saddle stitch



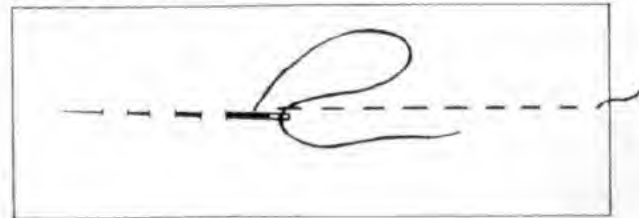
back stitch



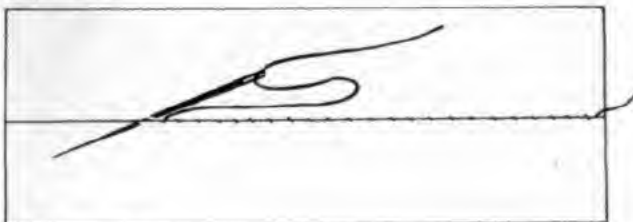
prick stitch



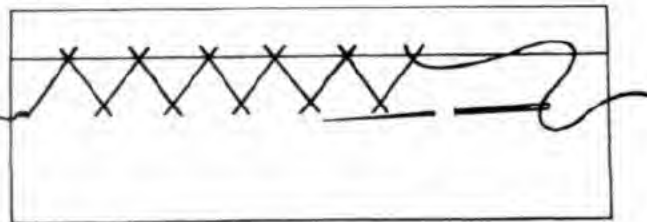
running stitch



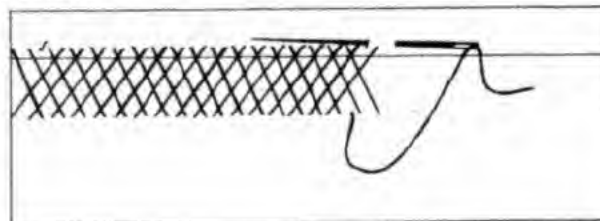
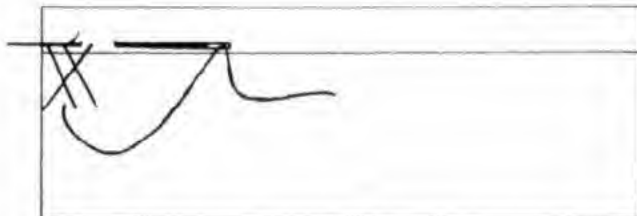
slip stitch



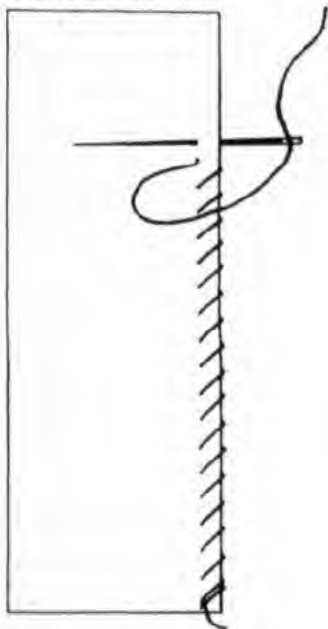
cross stitch



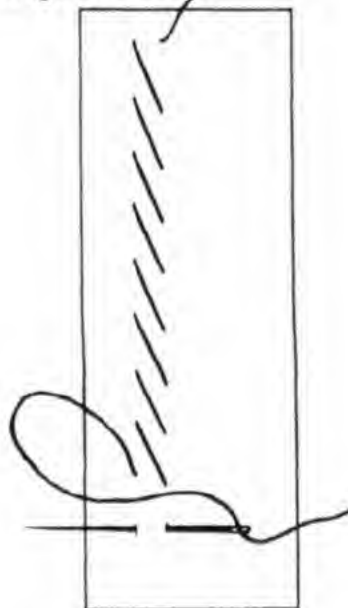
double cross stitch



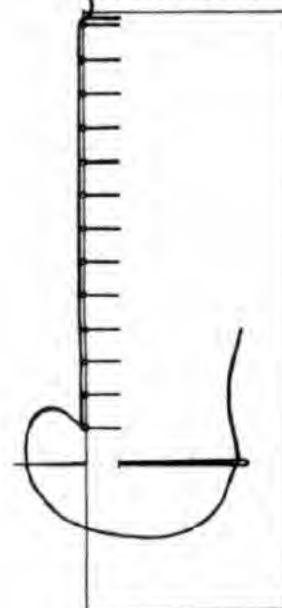
overcast stitch



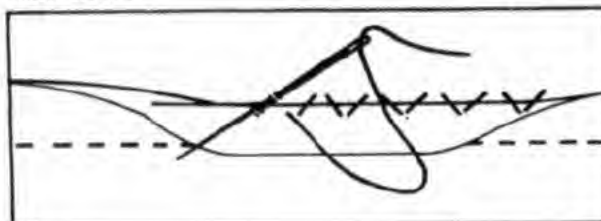
diagonal stitch



blanket stitch

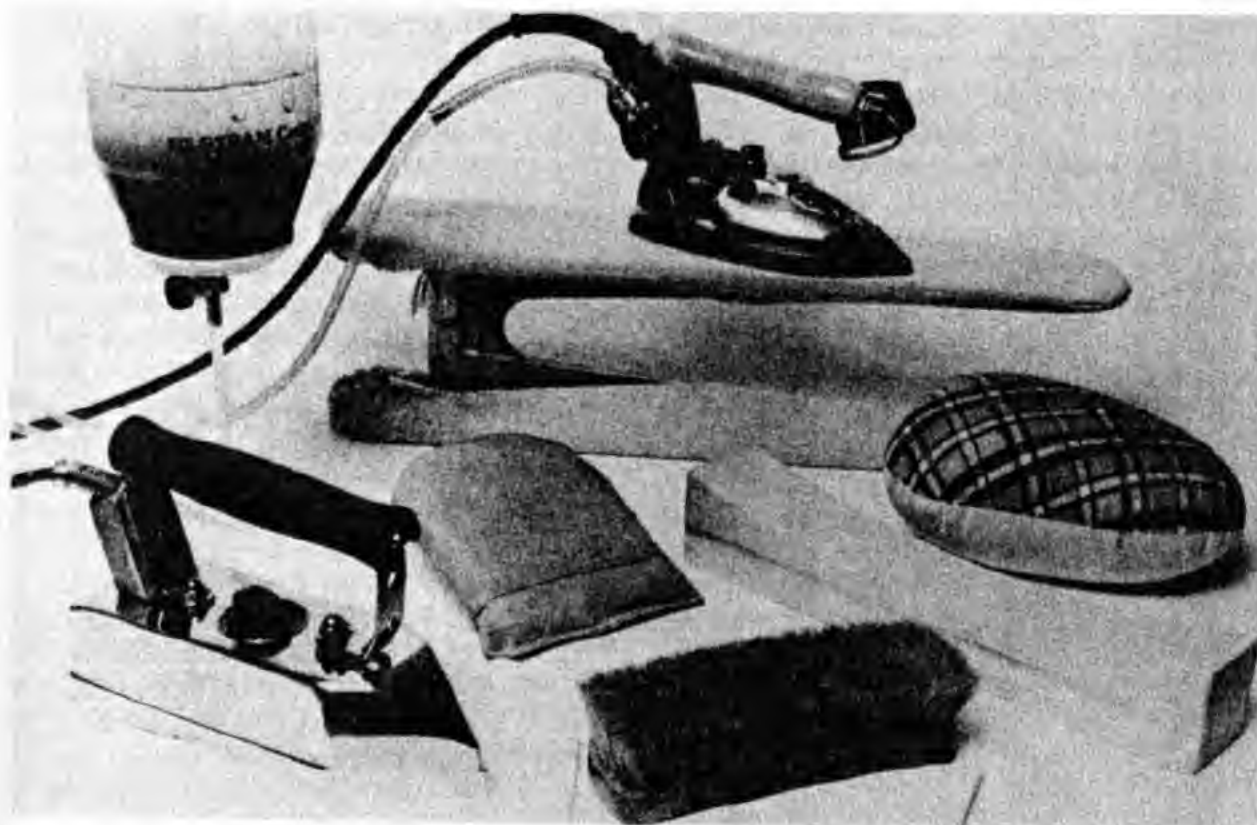


hem stitch





## PRESSING SUPPLIES



### Heavy, Dry Iron

About 12 pounds or more in weight; preferred over lighter weight irons by most tailors, because of the added pressure the weight affords, especially in the job of flattening and reducing bulk by pressing.

### Steam Iron

Professional models offer a powerful surge of steam; preferred by those who find heavier weight irons difficult to manipulate.

### Sleeve Board

A small ironing board convenient for pressing the sleeve and other difficult to reach areas.

### Tailor's Ham

A tightly packed, large or small, curved pressing surface, preferably stuffed with sawdust.

### Pleater

A wooden block, curved on one side and flat on the other. Used as a pressing surface or as pounding block for flattening bulky edges.

### Brush

Used for brushing the fabric, and for pounding delicate areas.

### Presscloth

Soft cotton fabric which is free of sizing. Used to protect the garment fabric from direct contact with the hot iron. With a dry iron, the presscloth is dampened to produce steam.

### Press Mitt

A padded mitt worn on the hand. Used to assist in pressing areas that do not lie comfortably on a tailor's ham or ironing board, especially the sleeve cap and shoulder area.

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# PRESSING TECHNIQUES

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Pressing is an integral part of the tailoring process. Besides ridding the fabric of wrinkles, and producing neat, flat dart and seamlines, the iron is used in tailoring to gently shape the fabric. Using heat, moisture and pressure, fabric which is suitable for tailoring can be shrunk in some areas and stretched in others, so that it will hang most gracefully as a finished garment.

The amount of heat, moisture and pressure necessary to accomplish your job depends upon the weight and quality of your fabric. Therefore, before using the iron on your fabric, it is essential that you pretest, using a fabric scrap. If your heat setting is too high, the fabric fibers will flatten out and produce an unattractive shine. If your presscloth is too wet, the fabric will shrink and matt.

Wool fabric is very vulnerable when damp. Therefore, rather than pulling the iron back and forth over the fabric, and stretching the fabric off grain, the iron is placed and lifted, placed and lifted, etc. A presscloth is always needed between the iron and the garment fabric to prevent damage to the fabric.

Flat seams can be safely pressed on flat surfaces. However, if a curved area of the garment is placed on a flat surface for steam pressing, and restricted by the flat surface of the hot iron, the fullness in the fabric will shrink as much as it can, in order to fit into this limited space. For this reason, curved areas of the garment are laid over a tailor's ham so that the ham might fill out the shape of the garment. Steam pressing a curved area in this manner will not result in shrinkage, since the fabric is being pressed in conformity with its own shape.

Using a dry iron, the best procedure for pressing is to cover the fabric with a uniformly damp (not dripping) presscloth, and then to lay

the hot iron on the presscloth until steam is produced. Pressure is added while the fabric is being steamed. Remove the iron and the presscloth while the steam is still being produced. If you are pressing a curved area of the garment, allow the fabric to lay over the ham for a few minutes while it dries. If the ham is stuffed with sawdust the wood particles will absorb the moisture fairly quickly. After pressing flat areas of the garment, the fabric can simply be hung up to dry. Drying the fabric completely before lifting the iron, will flatten out the wool fibers and rob the fabric of its life.

Some worsteds or heavier woolens will require more than the normal amount of pressure to create sharp, flat edges. Pressing on a wooden surface—the area to be flattened can be struck sharply with a pounding block while the fabric is still steaming. This extreme pressure, coupled with the instant drying produced by the blow and the wooden surface, usually produces the desired flat, crisp edge.

If a shine appears on the surface of your fabric as the result of extreme heat or pressure, you will probably be able to eliminate it by lightly steaming the shiny area, and then using a soft brush to coax the fibers back to life.

The beginning tailor usually sins by excess—dampening, pressing, pounding the fabric limp. Remember that the surface life of the fabric is quite vulnerable, as are the many bias and semi-bias raw edges which can all too easily be stretched out of shape. If each of the several pieces of your garment are handled carefully during the tailoring process, and laid carefully aside when not in use, the amount of pressing needed will be greatly reduced.

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## TAILORING SUPPLY SOURCES

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S. Beckenstein Inc.  
125 Orchard Street  
New York, N.Y. 10002

Bergen Tailor and Cleaning Supply Corp.  
9027 River Road  
Edgewater, N.J. 07020

Gubi Linings and Trimmings Co.  
61 Delancey Street  
New York, N.Y. 10002

Louis A. Lew Co., Inc.  
108 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10011

Sew and Show  
401 North Avenue  
Garwood, N.J. 07027

# 2 The Pattern

Unless you are skilled enough to create your own pattern, your job now is to carefully choose and adjust a commercial pattern in order to produce a personally flattering *style* and *fit*. Beautifully detailed construction is wasted on a garment which does not fit, or on a style which

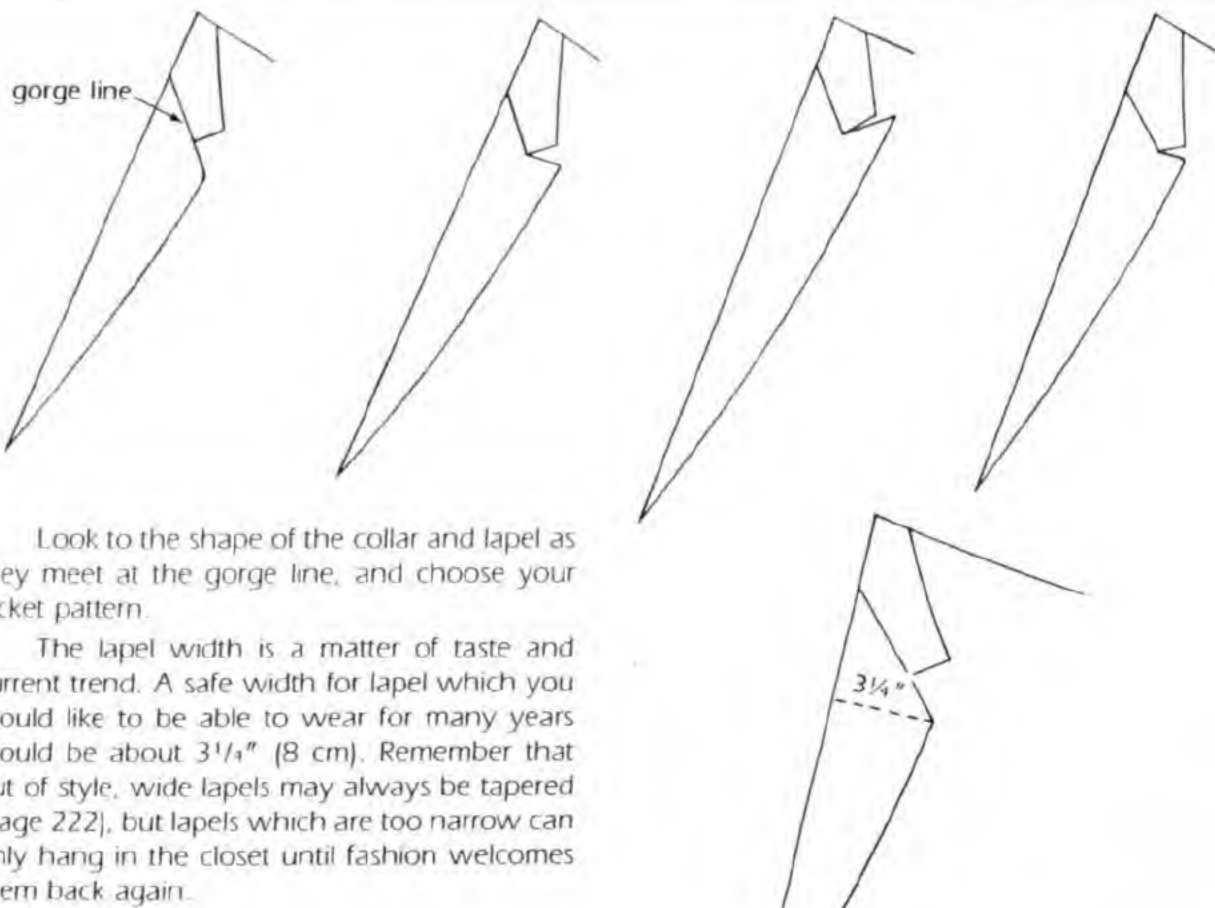
does not suit the wearer.

Choose the jacket and vest pattern size according to the *chest* measurement, and the pants pattern size according to the *waist* measurement.

## THE JACKET PATTERN

In selecting the jacket style of the pattern, look to the broad style lines. For the moment, ignore such things as styles of pockets, or whether there is a back vent, or if the jacket pattern includes a lining. Fortified with the techniques outlined in this book, all you will use from the pattern envelope are the basic pattern pieces: *the jacket front, side panel and back, the sleeve, and the undercollar*. You will be able to create the rest of the jacket on your own.

Choose the jacket pattern according to your preference for either the close European lines, or the more relaxed, looser shape of the American fit. Decide on a single- or double-breasted jacket, and whether a long or a short lapel would be most flattering. These decisions are crucial to the success of the finished jacket, and must be made on a purely individual basis.

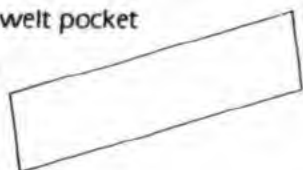


Look to the shape of the collar and lapel as they meet at the gorge line, and choose your jacket pattern.

The lapel width is a matter of taste and current trend. A safe width for lapel which you would like to be able to wear for many years would be about  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " (8 cm). Remember that out of style, wide lapels may always be tapered (page 222), but lapels which are too narrow can only hang in the closet until fashion welcomes them back again.



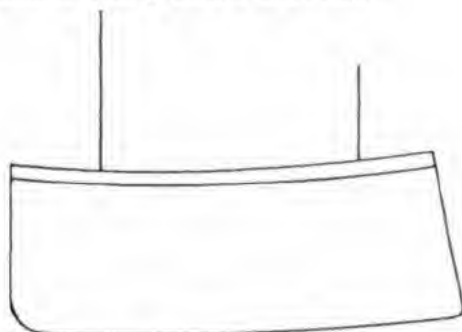
welt pocket



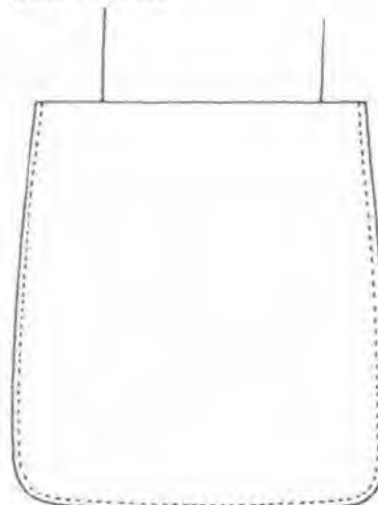
double piping pocket



double piping pocket with flap

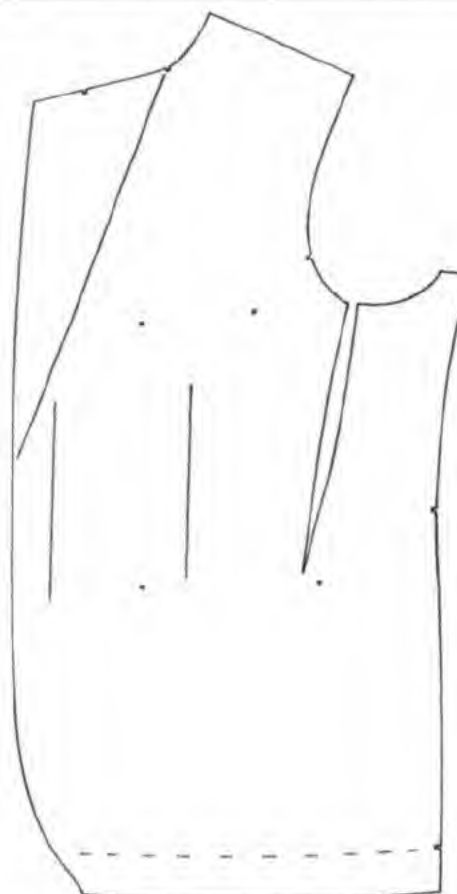


patch pocket



You will be able to interchange patch pockets with double piping pockets, or to add a welt breast pocket if there is none. You will not need your pattern envelope to help you with making these changes.

If you will be working with a plaid fabric, choose a pattern that eliminates the seam below the pocket by using a dart instead of a separate side panel. The plaid below the pocket is then undisturbed by seamlines, and matching the plaid during the construction of the pockets is not difficult.

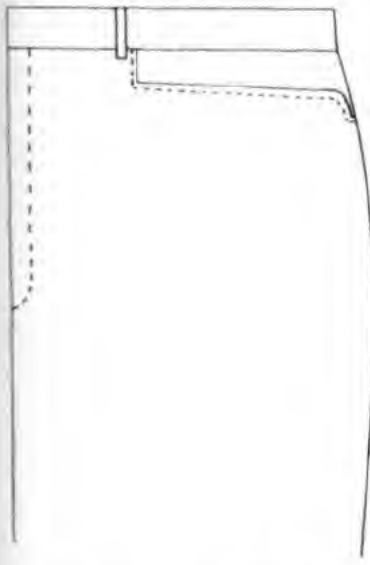


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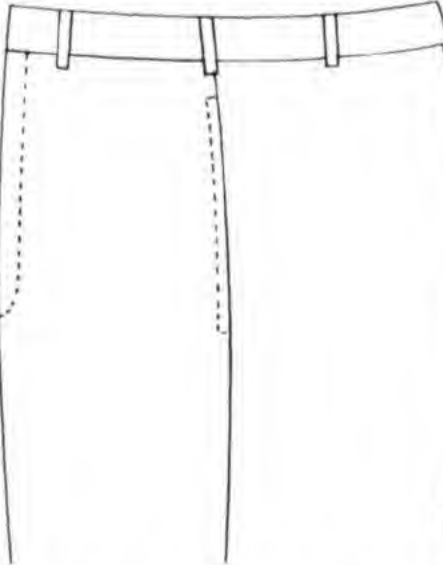
## THE PANTS PATTERN

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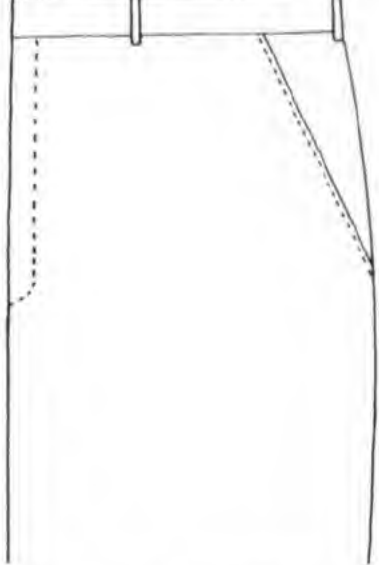
western pocket



side pocket



slant pocket



In selecting a pants pattern, select a high or low rise, whichever your client has found to be more comfortable, and decide for or against pleats.

No matter what style pockets you would like, the best pants pattern to buy is one that has side pockets rather than Western or slant pockets. This will give you a pattern with side and waistline seams intact—a pattern that can be

modified to create all three pockets using the patterns included in this book. (If you choose a pattern with front pleats, of course, you forfeit your option for a Western pocket.)

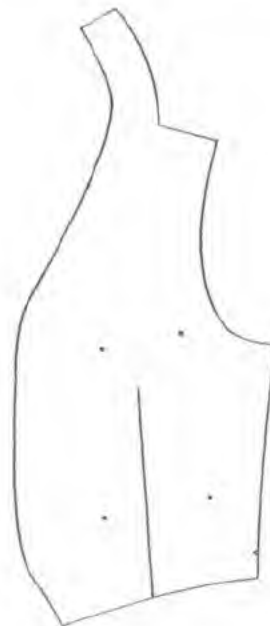
The *width of the pants leg* should not be a determining factor in choosing the pattern, since this is a minor pattern alteration (page 231). *Cuffs* also can be added or subtracted without difficulty (page 16).

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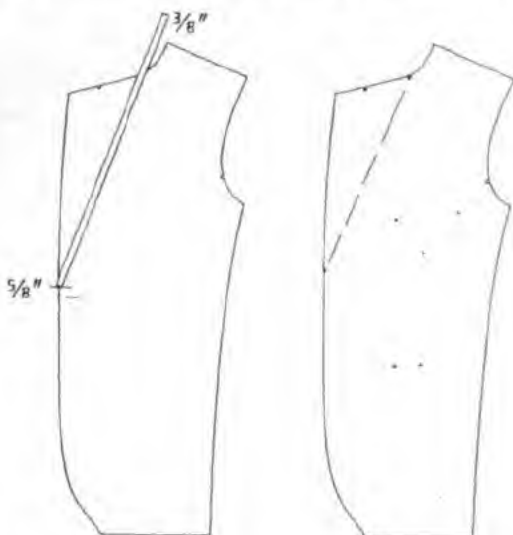
## THE VEST PATTERN

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The classic tailored vest is single-breasted, with two or four welt pockets. Check the pattern to see that the front of the vest has an extension that continues to the center back of the neck.

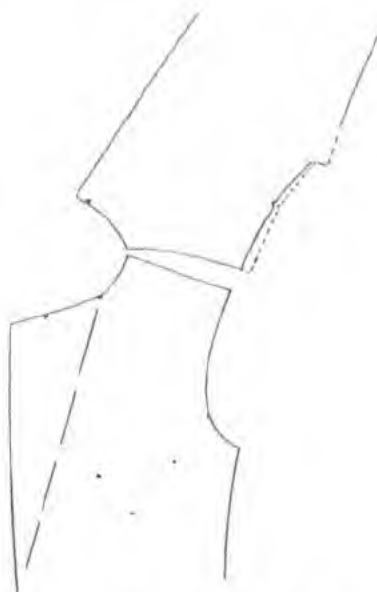


# PRELIMINARY PATTERN ADJUSTMENTS



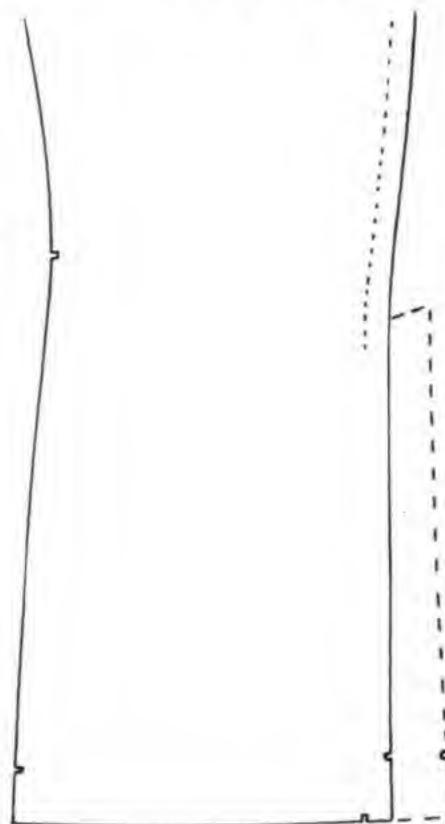
## 1. Jacket Roll Line

Draw the lapel roll line on your pattern if it is not already indicated. The roll line begins about  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) above the top button, and is drawn at an angle which would bring it  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) out from the neck cutting edge at the shoulder. Notch the top and bottom of the roll line.



## 2. Shoulder Seams

The jacket back shoulder seam should be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) longer than the front shoulder seam, to allow for ease of movement. Measure your pattern shoulder seams. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) to the back shoulder seam if it has not been included.



## 3. Vents

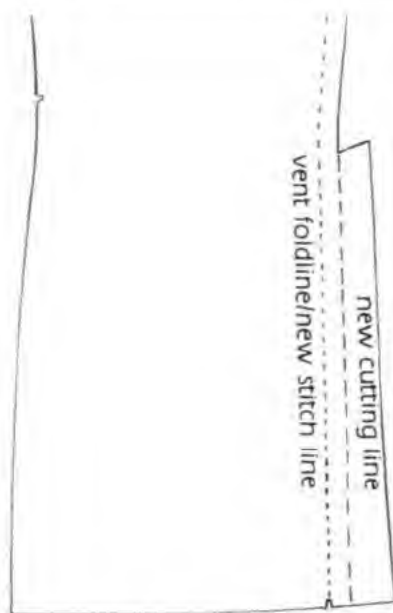
If you would like to add a *center back vent* to a jacket which does not have a back vent, extend your pattern out 2" (5 cm) from the stitchline at the top of the vent, and 3" (7.6 cm) at the bottom. The top of the center back vent is about 1" (2.5 cm) below the waistline.



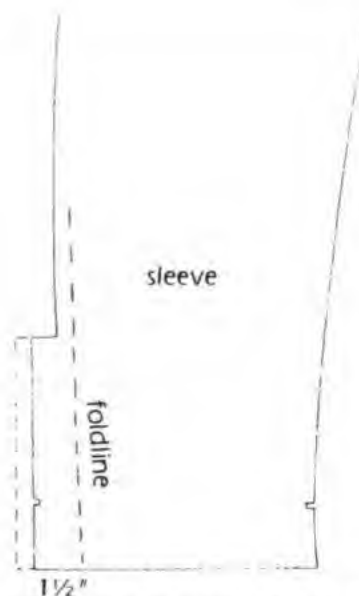


Side vents are more inclined to open than center back vents. The under vent (the side panel) must, therefore, be cut wider to allow for this. Beginning about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) below the waistline and the back of the side panel, extend your pattern  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) from the stitchline at the top of the vent, and 4" (10.2 cm) at the bottom.

The top vent is created by extending the side seam of the jacket back pattern  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) from the original stitchline, from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) below the waistline, to the bottom of the jacket.



If your pattern includes either a back or side vent and you wish to eliminate it, simply treat the vent foldline as a stitchline, and trim away the pattern beyond the seam allowance.



If the vent is not at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) from the foldline on both the topsleeve and the undersleeve patterns, extend it to that amount.

## 4. Revised Facing Pattern

If the outer edge of the facing pattern is curved to match the shape of the outer edge of the jacket lapel, the facing pattern must be redrawn. This procedure is an inconvenience, but one which will produce a far more professional product.

We are redrawing the facing pattern in order to create a pattern that will enable us to place the straight of the grain on the facing at the outer edge of the lapel. This is essential for a controlled, graceful lay of the fabric. We will also add ease to the facing to assist in the roll of the lapel.

This adjustment, although detailed here, should only be made *after* the muslin fitting, when the jacket front pattern corrections have been completed.

Use the jacket front pattern as a guide, and draw a new facing pattern on oaktag or brown paper. Trace around the jacket front pattern leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) margin at the shoulder, neck and top of the lapel. The front of the facing pattern is a straight line, which is drawn  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) away from the center of the lapel and continues to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the bottom of the jacket.



The front edge of the facing does not yet take the shape of the front of the jacket. This shaping will be accomplished *later* with the help of the steam iron.

Indicate the bottom of the lapel and the waistline notch on the facing pattern, and remove the jacket front pattern.

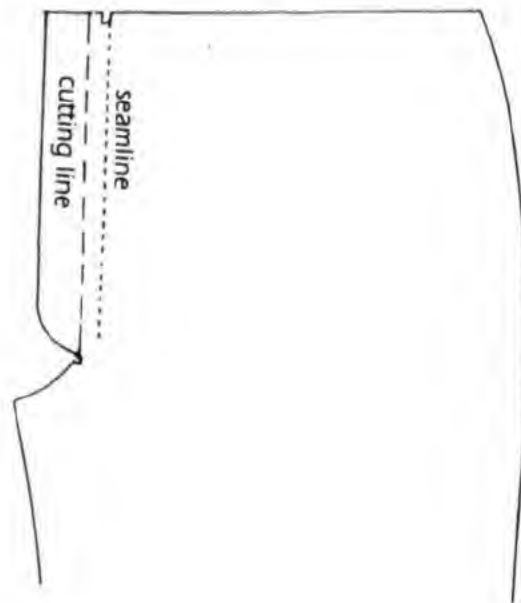
The facing extends 3" (7.6 cm) past the center of the roll line, and should be 3" (7.6 cm) wide at the shoulder. The facing should be cut  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " (14 cm) wide at the bottom for a jacket that curves in at the center front hem. For a straight front jacket, the bottom of the facing is 4" (10.2 cm) wide.

Add a seam allowance notch at the top of the lapel,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) in from the edge. Your revised facing pattern is complete.



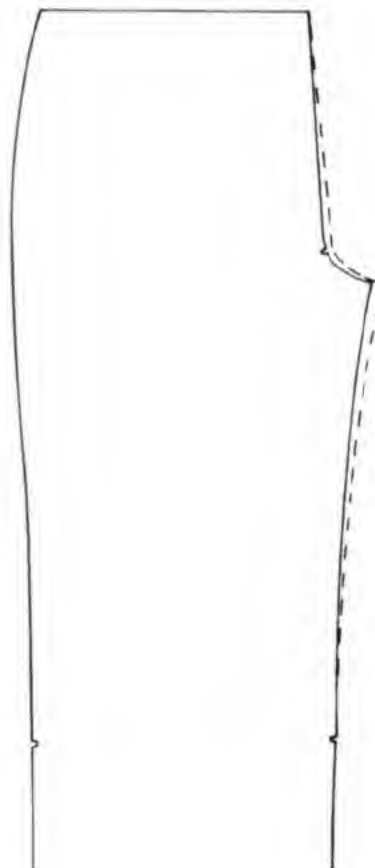
## 5. The Fly

The fly extension *should not* be included on the pants front pattern. If the extension is attached to the front of the pants pattern, trim it away leaving seam allowance beyond the foldline. Notch the waistline to indicate the fly seam allowance.



## 6. The Crotch

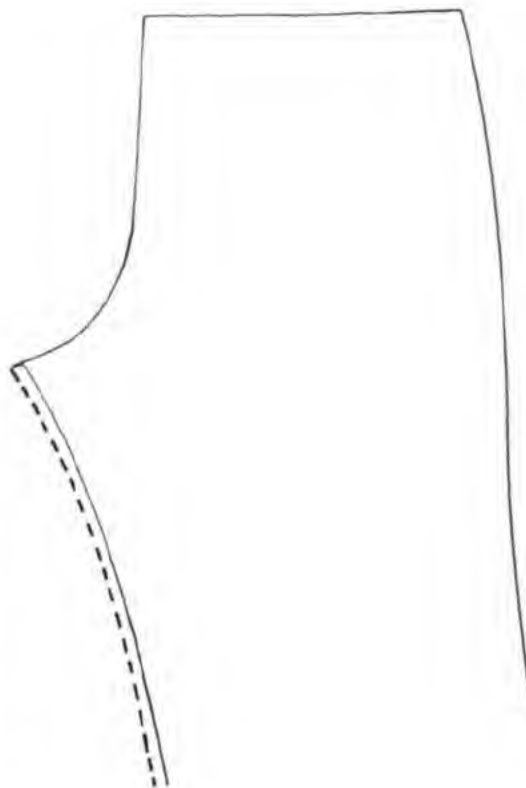
Men who wear loose-fitting undershorts and close-fitting pants will need extra fabric at one side of the crotch as room for the genitals. When the measurements are taken, the client is asked which side he "dresses" on. Both pants fronts are cut with an additional  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) fabric in the crotch. The excess fabric is then trimmed away from the side that does not need the ease.





## 7. Inseams

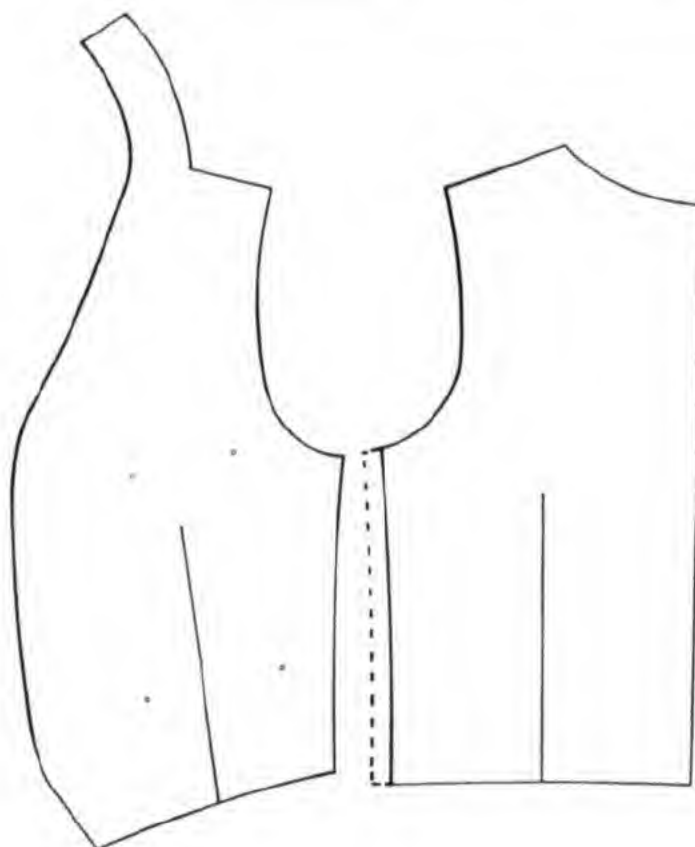
Tailors always leave extra fabric at the back inseam of each pants leg to allow for alterations. This means that when the pants inseams are sewn, the back inseam is about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) wider than the front. Commercial patterns avoid confusion by allowing the same amount for both seam allowances. If you would like the security of being able to let the pants out in this area (a common alteration), adjust the inseam of the back pants pattern piece by adding  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) from crotch to hem to existing seam allowance.



## 8. Cuffs

If your pattern does not include cuffs and you would like them, extend the bottom of your pants pattern below what will be the bottom edge of the finished pants—an amount equal to at least three times the cuff width. The average cuff width is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm). If you have the fabric, it would be wise to leave slightly more fabric, since the final determination of the pants length is made only after the pants are completed.





## 9. Vest

The side seam allowance at the back of the vest should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) larger than the side seam allowance at the front, to allow for alterations. All alterations of the width of the vest, after its original construction, take place at the back seam allowance, in order not to draw the pockets out of line.

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## LENGTHENING OR SHORTENING PATTERNS

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With the preliminary pattern check completed, lengthen or shorten your jacket, pants and vest patterns as indicated by your measurements. Follow the instructions for length adjustments given on your pattern. As a general guide for length, the jacket should be long enough to extend just below the buttocks. The vest should be long enough to cover the pants waistband. This becomes a challenge, with low rise pants. The pants should be long enough to reach to the middle of the back of the shoe. Leave yourself a

generous hem at the bottom of the pants for now.

If you have had successful experience with flat pattern alterations, you may wish to make further adjustments to your pattern at this point. If you have no experience, or only painful memories regarding pattern alterations, leave the adjustments for the moment. The needed pattern alterations will become very obvious in the muslin fitting.

# 3 The Fit

## MEASUREMENTS

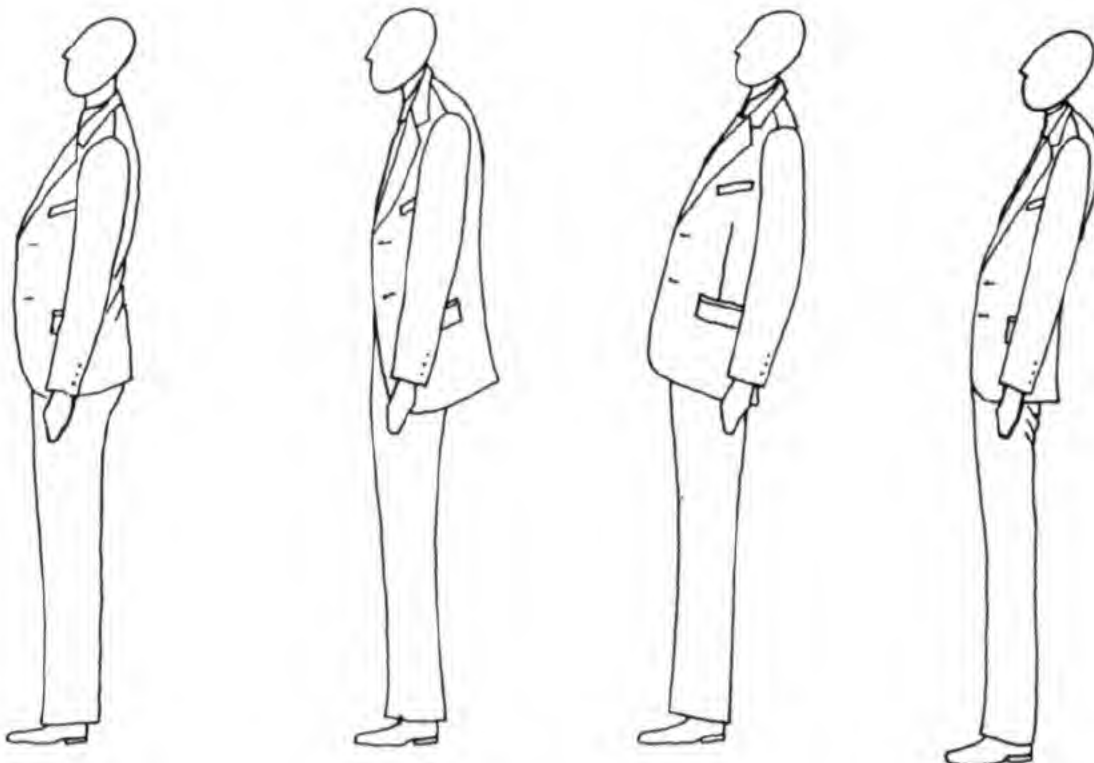
The following are standard measurements taken by tailors, and used by them to draft patterns which will fit their clients as closely and as comfortably as possible. In conjunction with the measurements, the tailor also notes important information about the client's body: whether his posture is stooped or overly erect; whether his shoulders are square or sloped; whether his buttocks are full or flat; whether his stomach protrudes; whether one hip or one shoulder is higher than the other, etc.

In order to get an uncensored picture, the tailor keeps the client away from the mirror during these observations. The temptation to suck in the stomach and stand up straight for the mirror, is too strong. If the tailor were to note that version of the body, the suit would fit only in

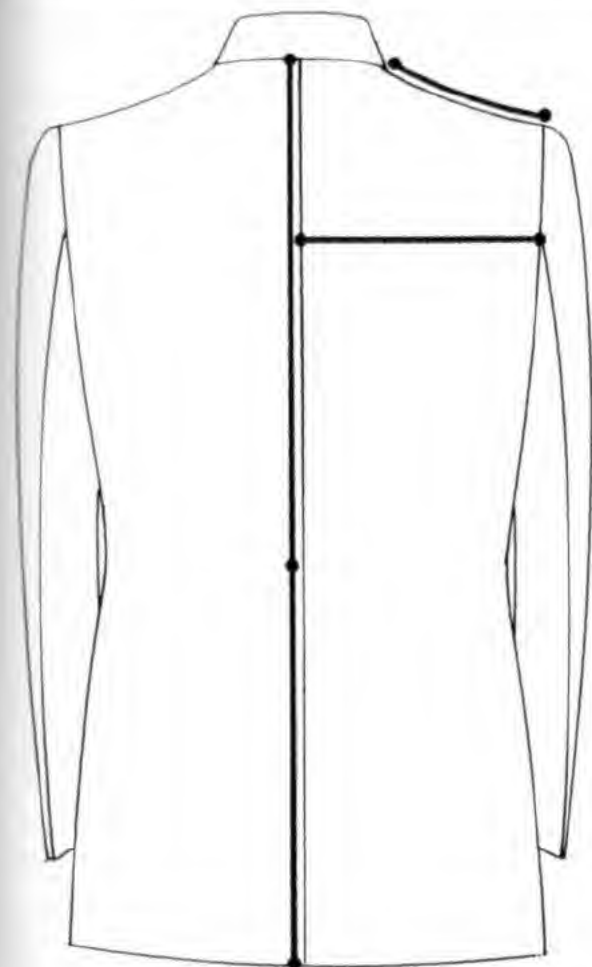
front of a mirror. While making the pattern, the tailor applies his craft to build into the pattern whichever characteristics are needed.

If you are not a skilled patternmaker, and are, therefore, using a commercial pattern, certain fitting and style adjustments will undoubtedly be necessary. Your pattern will have to be customized after the fact, by means of a muslin fitting.

The standard tailors' measurements taken in this chapter will, therefore, most likely be used by you only to choose a commercial pattern closest to your client's fit, and to adjust the length of the pattern. All other adjustments of the pattern will be diagnosed and made during the muslin fitting.



# HOW TO TAKE MEASUREMENTS



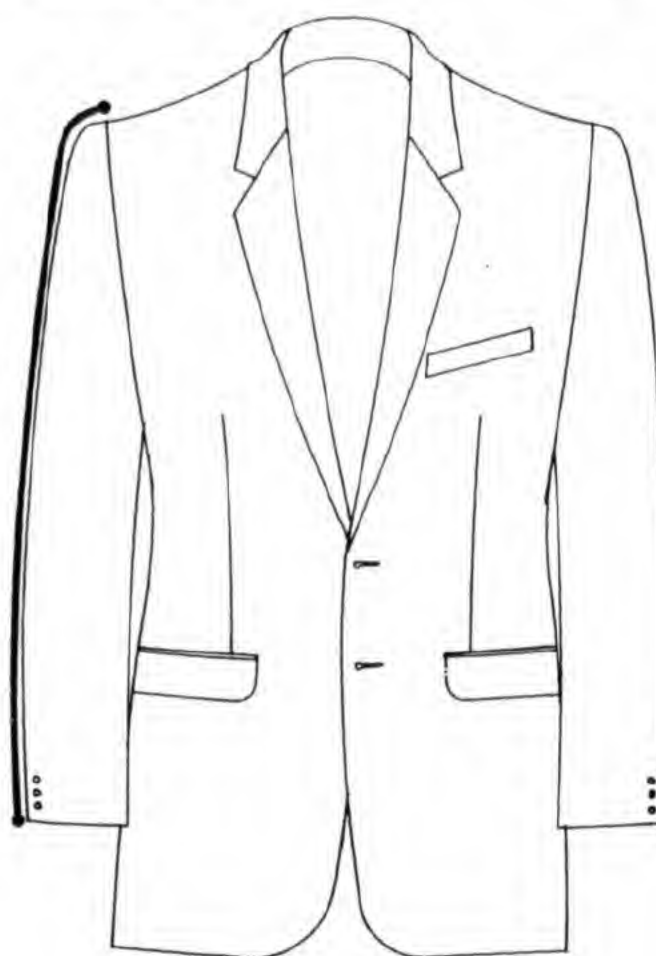
The first five measurements are taken over the best fitting jacket the client has available. *Don't be concerned if the jacket is not a perfect fit. We will have an opportunity to improve the fit during the measurements and the muslin fitting. A vest should be worn under the jacket if you are measuring for a three-piece suit.*

## 1. Center Back/Neck to Waist

With the jacket collar up, measure from the collar seam to the waist at center back.

## 2. Center Back/Neck to Hip

With the tape measure touching the body at the waist, measure from the collar seam to the bottom of the jacket. The jacket should extend to just below the hip level. If the client's jacket is a



flattering length for him, ignore the hip level and use the length of the jacket.

## 3. Back

At about center armhole level, measure across the back from the armhole seam to the center back seam.

## 4. Shoulder

Measure the shoulder seam from collar seam to armhole seam.

## 5. Sleeve Length

Measure the sleeve from the shoulder seam to the hem fold, taking into consideration the slight rise of the sleeve over the shoulder pad.

Remove the jacket to take the chest and waist measurements. A vest should be worn for these measurements if a three-piece suit is being made.





## 6. Chest

Measure around the body just under the arms. Check that the tapemeasure is over the fullest part of the chest and centered over the shoulder blades in the back. Place two fingers under the tapemeasure to afford ease, and take a comfortable measurement, neither too loose nor too tight.

## 7. Waist

The waist measurement is taken over the vest, but without the belt. This measurement, while comfortable, should have *no* additional ease.

## 8. Hips

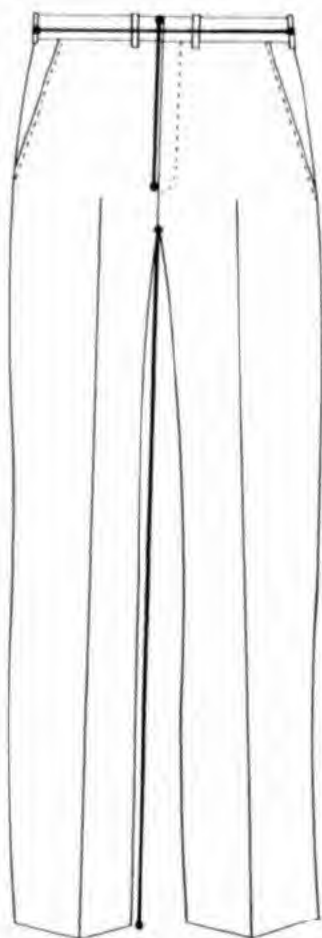
The hip measurement is taken with the customer's back pockets empty and his feet together. With two fingers under the tape for ease, measure around the fullest part of the hip.

## 9. Vest Opening

Measure from the neck at center back, over the shoulder and down to the point at which you would like the top vest button.

## 10. Vest Length

With the tapemeasure held at the position of the top vest button, continue to measure down to the longest point on the vest front.



## 11. The Fly

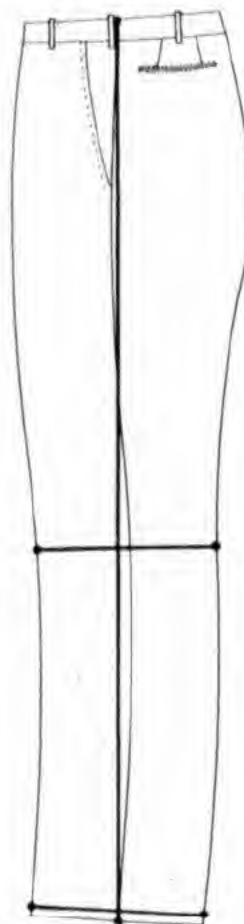
Have the client raise his waistline of the pants until the pants just touches the body at the crotch. If the waistband is much too high on the client, when the pants are in this position, the fly of the pants he is wearing is too long.

If he cannot get the waistline of the pants up to his waistline, without the pants becoming uncomfortable in the crotch, the fly of his pants is too short.

Measure the fly from what should be the top of the waistband, down to the beginning of the curve of the crotch.

## 12. Pants Inseam

With the pants waistline at a comfortable level for the client, measure the pants inseam from the crotch to the middle of the shoe. As a courtesy to the client, there are special tape-measures for taking this measurement. The top few inches of the tape-measure have a piece of cardboard attached, so that the cardboard, and not the tailor's hand reaches to the top of the inseam.



## 13. Crotch Adjustment

Men who wear loose-fitting undershorts and close-fitting pants will need extra fabric at one side of the crotch as room for the genitals. Ask the client which side he "dresses" on, so that an adjustment can be made on that side of the pants.

## 14. Pants Outseam

With the pants waistline at a comfortable level for the client, measure down the outseam from the top of the waistband to the middle of the shoe.

## 15. Knee Width

Measure across the knee of the pants from crease to crease.

## 16. Width of Pants at Hem

Measure across the bottom edge of the pants leg from crease to crease.

# THE MUSLIN FITTING

The next step is to cut the basic pattern pieces from a good quality muslin fabric and to check the fit.

We assume that you are anxious to get on with the job of making the real suit, and that you can think of hundreds of reasons to support you in avoiding this seemingly over-cautious step. However, unless you are a tailor with years of cutting experience, a muslin fitting *must* be made.

The muslin will serve as an inexpensive prototype of your suit, through which you can become aware of, (and then avoid) creases and wrinkles caused by the fact that your body is unique, and the pattern is an "average" size. These creases literally "point at" and advertise the peculiarities of your body, such as knock-knees or protruding seat.

If you for the first time are aware of the creases in the *finished suit*, it may be too late to eliminate them; but the *muslin* offers an early warning system. The knock-knees and protruding seat will not disappear, but the wrinkles which note their presence will.

The pattern corrections given here are for some of the most common fitting problems. The procedure is to diagnose the problem, determine the amount needed to correct the fit, and then, to apply the corrected amount at certain points on the pattern.

You will have to attach paper to the areas of the pattern that need expanding, so that new lines can be drawn, blending the corrected amounts gracefully into the original lines.

A hip curve ruler is an essential tool for this procedure. The contours of the hip curve coincide with the contours of the body. If you turn the hip curve, you will find a place on it that takes you smoothly from a newly added  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm), back into the seamline. Use the curve of the original line as a general guide for the contour of the new line.

If the pattern correction has been at all significant, it would be wise to verify the corrections by changing the muslin accordingly. Only then can the cutting of your suit fabric be done with full confidence.

Now that you have decided to make the muslin, be aware that it is not an entire suit in muslin. For the jacket, cut only the front, back and side panel from muslin, and the undercollar from French canvas (for body). Eliminate the

facing and the topcollar. Chalkmark on the muslin, lines that indicate the placement of the pockets, the buttons, and the center front.

A muslin sleeve will not be cut at this point. When the jacket is almost finished, the armhole will be measured and a muslin sleeve will be cut to fit (page 159). Forget the sleeve for now. You will need shoulder pads for the jacket fitting. Use a pair of commercial pads. (On page 132 there are instructions for making your own shoulder pads, however, you may wish to make them only after the fitting, when you will have determined the amount of padding best for you.)

The pants muslin should include a zipper and a waistband, so that you get a sense of the actual hang of the pants. The pockets can simply be chalkmarked. The vest muslin needs no facing, and only chalkmarks indicating pockets and buttons.

Cut the muslin fabric with *full attention* to the *grain*. If the muslin is off grain, wrinkles may be quite misleading: they may be indicating bias draping, rather than fitting problems.

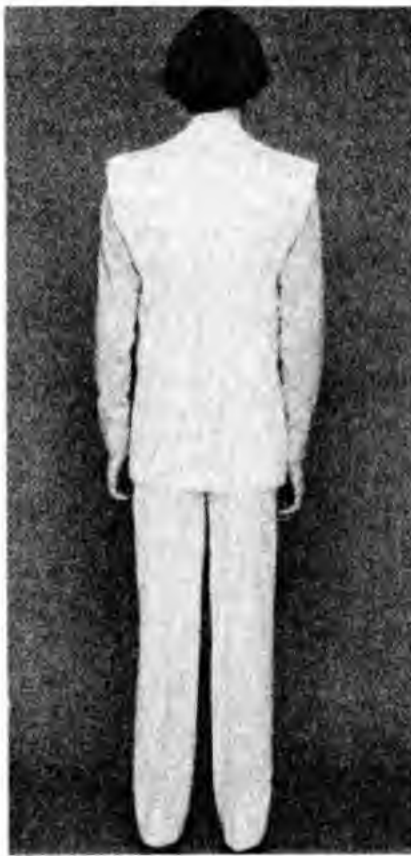
Machine stitch the seam allowances and darts accurately, and press the seams open.

The muslin jacket should be fit over a well-fitting shirt. We will be using the shirt collar as a guide for the height of the jacket collar. A sweater should not be worn under the muslin, unless one will be worn regularly under the finished suit jacket. Attention should be given to the height of the shoe heel, since variation here may significantly alter the length of the pants.

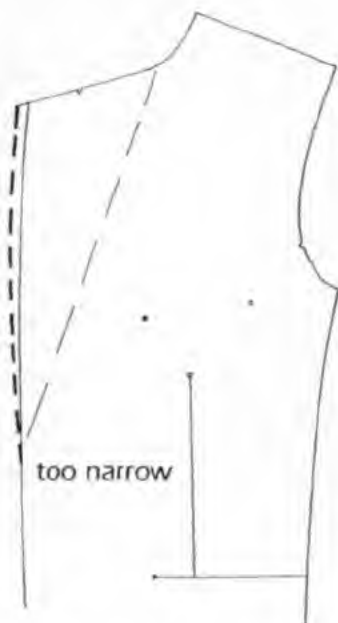
The first view of the muslin suit provides important information about the overall impression. The jacket and pants should be in balance. Although the average jacket length is just below the hip, a man with long legs and a short torso may require a jacket that comes well below his hips in order to create an attractive balance between top and bottom.

Wide lapels and pleated trousers may combine to create too heavy an impression for a shorter, slightly built man. A long lapel may be better than a short one on a tall, broad man.

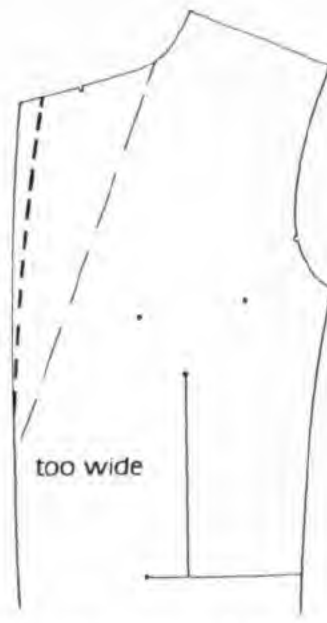
None of this is gospel. Use your eye and trust your judgment. If necessary, lengthen or shorten the jacket according to your pattern instructions, and then make whatever style adjustments you think best, using the guidelines on the following pages.



## LAPELS—TOO WIDE/TOO NARROW



If you wish to widen or narrow the lapel, add to or subtract from the top of the outer edge of the lapel, and taper a line to the bottom of the roll line.



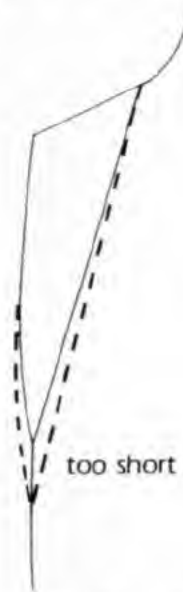
Adjusting the shape of the lapel will not prove a problem with the facing since we will eventually redraw the facing pattern using the new line of the lapel as a guide.



## LAPELS—TOO LONG/TOO SHORT



too long



too short

If you would prefer to raise or lower the lapel, draw a line from the top of the existing roll line to the desired height of the lapel roll. Below the roll line, the jacket front tapers to a straight line.

If you wish, the design of the collar can be completely changed during the construction of the collar (page 137).

## JACKET BALANCE



With the preceeding style problems out of the way, we will move on to the problems of *fit*. The procedure will be to correct the most obvious problems first, and to work our way down to the finer details. The major corrections often eliminate the minor ones before we get to them.



Far and away, the most obvious fitting problems are those caused by posture and body imbalance. If the client's posture is stooped or overly erect, or if one shoulder is higher than the other, the jacket will not hang correctly.

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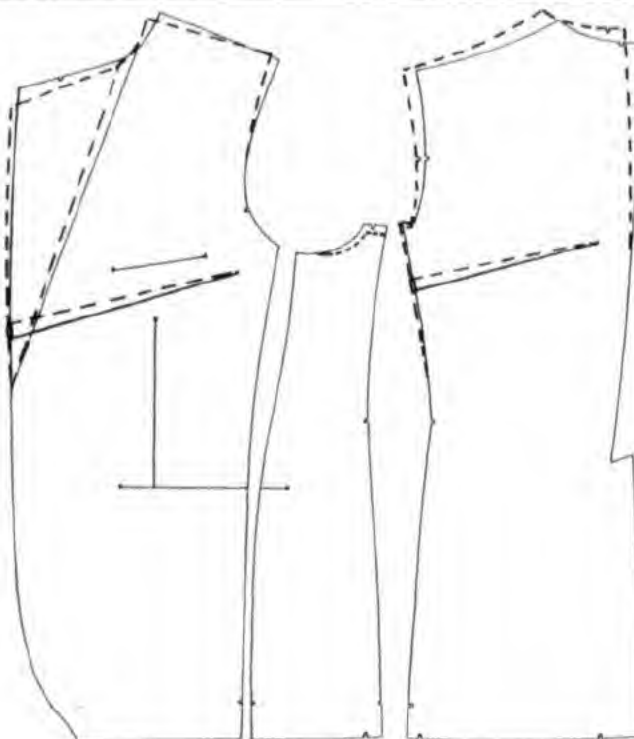
## STOOPED POSTURE

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A jacket on a man with stooped posture will pull towards the *back* and *upwards*. To prevent the jacket from pulling, fold the pattern at the back side seam about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) below the armhole. Approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) is folded out of the pattern at the seam, and tapered across the pattern back.

On the pattern front, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) below the armhole, and about 2" (5 cm) in from the cutting edge of the side seam, draw a line across the pattern to the lapel edge, at a level just below the top of the dart. About  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) fabric is folded out of the pattern at the lapel, tapering to the end of the line.

The top of the side panel is lowered so that the side panel back seam from waist notch to armhole is equal in length with the newly adjusted side seam on the jacket back pattern.



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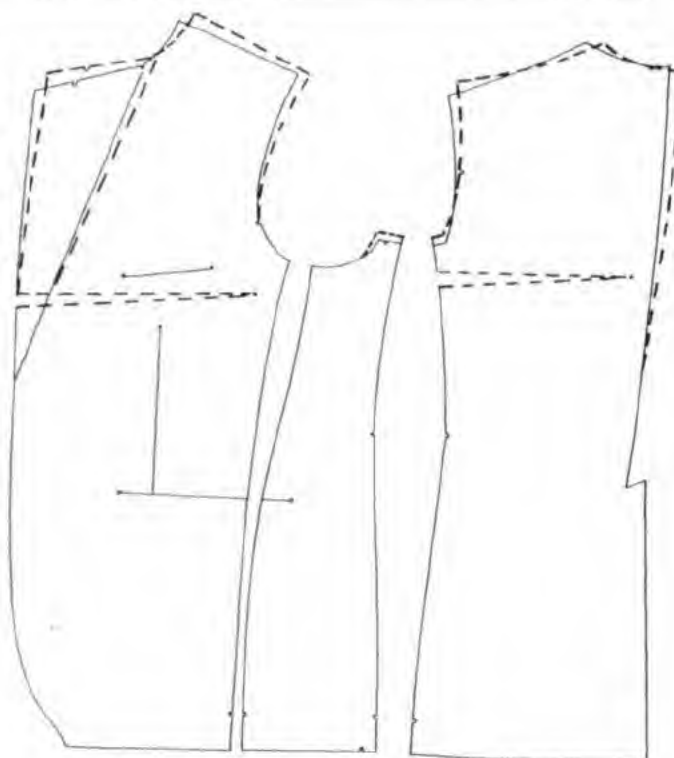
## OVERLY ERECT POSTURE

---

A jacket on a man with overly erect posture will pull towards the *front* and *upwards*. To prevent the jacket from pulling, slash the pattern, beginning on the back side seam, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) below the armhole. The slash continues across the back of the pattern to about 2" (5.1 cm) from the center back seam. The pattern is spread apart at the side seam  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm).

A slash is cut into the pattern front from the lapel edge to about 2" (5.1 cm) from the side seam. The pattern is spread apart at the slash  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm).

The top of the side panel is raised so that the side panel back seam from waist notch to armhole is equal in length with the newly adjusted side seam on the jacket back pattern.

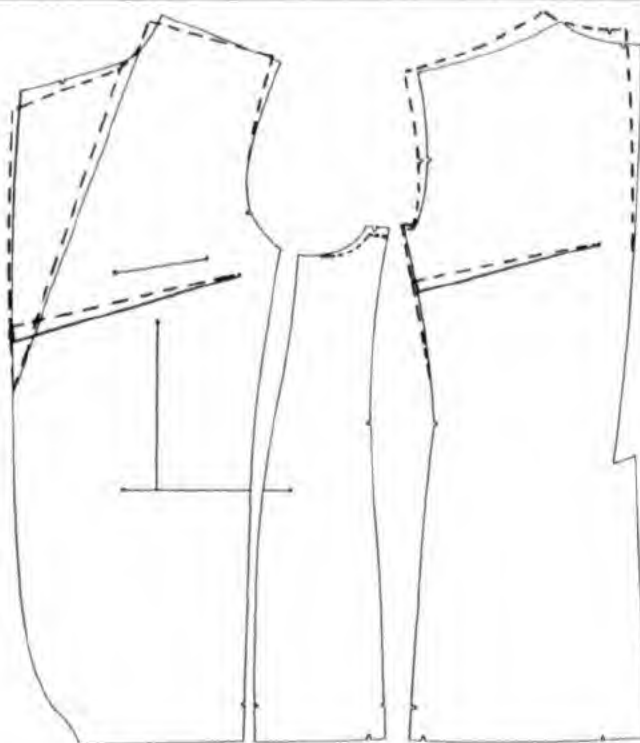


## STOOPED POSTURE

A jacket on a man with stooped posture will pull towards the *back* and *upwards*. To prevent the jacket from pulling, fold the pattern at the back side seam about  $1\frac{1}{2}"$  (3.8 cm) below the armhole. Approximately  $\frac{1}{2}"$  (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}"$  (1.9 cm) is folded out of the pattern at the seam, and tapered across the pattern back.

On the pattern front, about  $1\frac{1}{2}"$  (3.8 cm) below the armhole, and about 2" (5 cm) in from the cutting edge of the side seam, draw a line across the pattern to the lapel edge, at a level just below the top of the dart. About  $\frac{1}{2}"$  (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}"$  (1.9 cm) fabric is folded out of the pattern at the lapel, tapering to the end of the line.

The top of the side panel is lowered so that the side panel back seam from waist notch to armhole is equal in length with the newly adjusted side seam on the jacket back pattern.

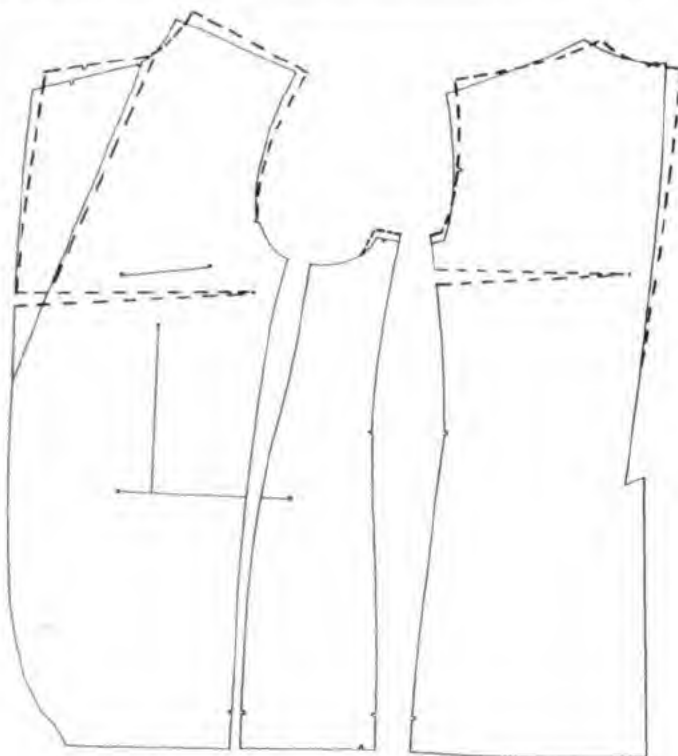


## OVERLY ERECT POSTURE

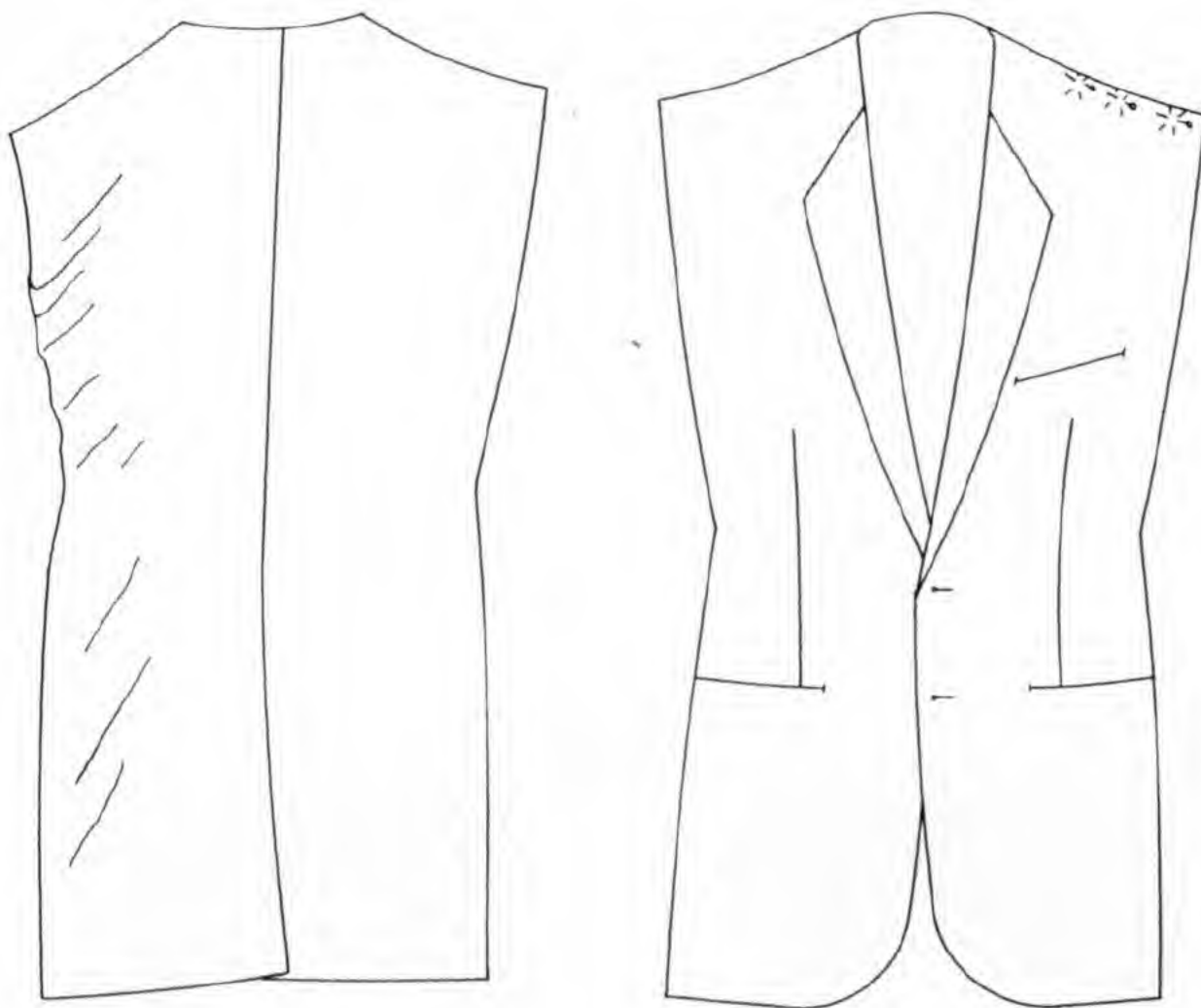
A jacket on a man with overly erect posture will pull towards the *front* and *upwards*. To prevent the jacket from pulling, slash the pattern, beginning on the back side seam, about  $1\frac{1}{2}"$  (3.8 cm) below the armhole. The slash continues across the back of the pattern to about 2" (5.1 cm) from the center back seam. The pattern is spread apart at the side seam  $\frac{1}{2}"$  (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}"$  (1.9 cm).

A slash is cut into the pattern front from the lapel edge to about 2" (5.1 cm) from the side seam. The pattern is spread apart at the slash  $\frac{1}{2}"$  (1.3 cm) to  $\frac{3}{4}"$  (1.9 cm).

The top of the side panel is raised so that the side panel back seam from waist notch to armhole is equal in length with the newly adjusted side seam on the jacket back pattern.



## LOW SHOULDER



Many people have one shoulder lower than the other, usually as a result of their work, or some other regular activity which places the body in an unbalanced position. A clear indication of this peculiarity of the body is visible in the sagging diagonal creases along one side of the jacket only.

Pin the fabric up at the shoulder (as illustrated) until the creases disappear, and measure the amount of the needed adjustment.

It would appear that the logical pattern correction would be a deeper, slanting seam at the shoulder. Doing this would make the arm-

hole smaller, which, in turn, would necessitate making the sleeve smaller.

The fact is that the correction has *nothing* to do with the armhole. It has to do with the *rib cage area*. The shoulder is low because the body is contracting itself somewhere between the armhole and the waist, on one side. The adjustment required is somewhat complicated—however, it works. The adjustment requires either a new muslin, or your confidence in being able to make the correction directly on the garment fabric. You decide.



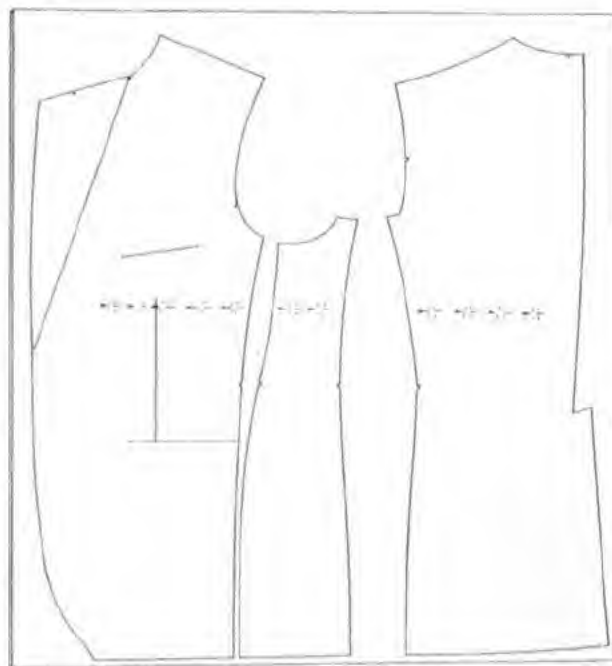
Place the three main jacket pattern pieces on your fabric so that the side of the jacket which does not need the correction will be traced on the top layer of the fabric.

In the illustration, the fabric is folded with right sides together and the right side of the jacket is being traced on the top layer of fabric. This is to illustrate the first step in correcting a *left* low shoulder.

Arrange the pattern pieces so that all seams which will eventually be joined are closest to each other.

Using tailor's chalk, trace the pattern pieces onto the fabric and remove the pattern.

Place a row of the pins horizontally across the fabric at approximately the level of the top of the dart. The pins should go through both layers of fabric.



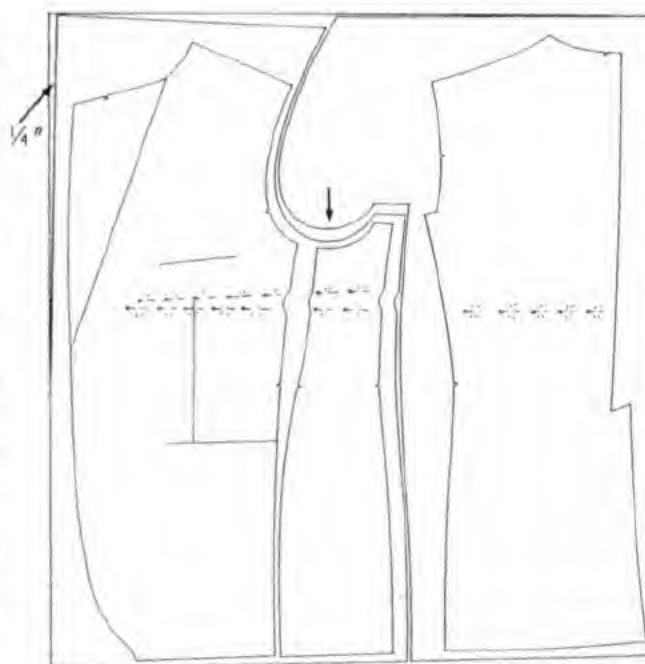
Cut through only the top layer of fabric (as illustrated) about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) away from the cutting edge of the armhole and the side panel. The fabric layers are still anchored together by the row of pins.

Now, at the top of the lapel, move the top layer of fabric in  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm). At the shoulder of the jacket front, move the top layer of fabric down an amount equal to one half the needed correction.

With one hand, hold the top layer of fabric flat, in its new position. With the other hand, smooth the fabric downward toward the pins, and outward towards the side seam. An excess of fabric will appear just above the row of pins.

A second row of pins is now placed through both layers of fabric, confining the ripple of fabric to this area. The two rows of pins should be about 1" (2.5 cm) apart at the side panel.

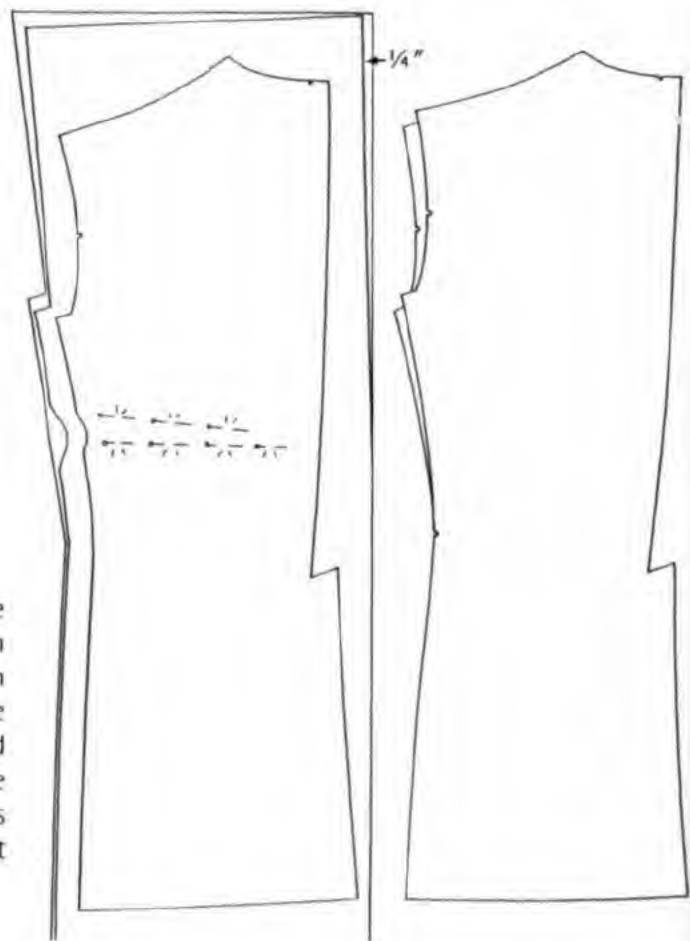
With the fabric pinned in this manner, cut through both layers of the jacket front and side panel. Be attentive as you cut the rippled area. Follow the chalk guideline.



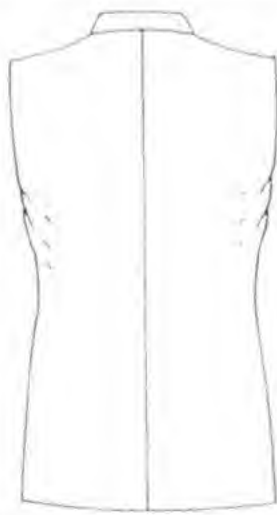
When both layers of the front and side panel are placed together on the table it will be obvious that the underlayer is shorter between the underarm and waist, yet both armholes are equal.



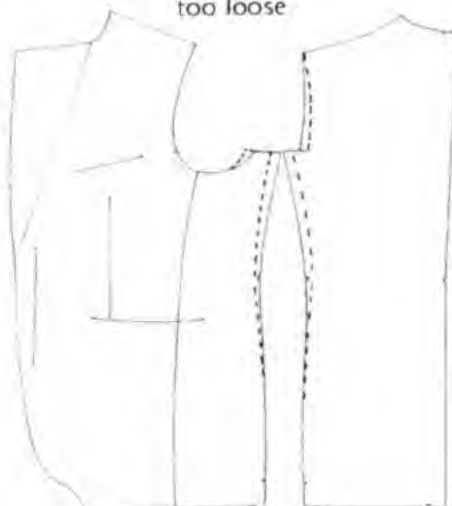
The back of the jacket is adjusted in the same manner. The top layer of fabric is moved in  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) at the center back neck, and down at the shoulder an amount equal to one half the needed correction. The fabric is smoothed downward and outward towards the side. The excess of fabric which appears above the pins is pinned in place, and both layers of the jacket back are cut together.



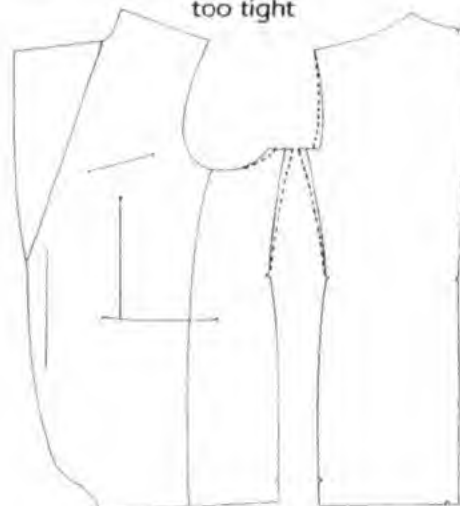
## TOO LOOSE/TOO TIGHT ABOVE WAIST



too loose



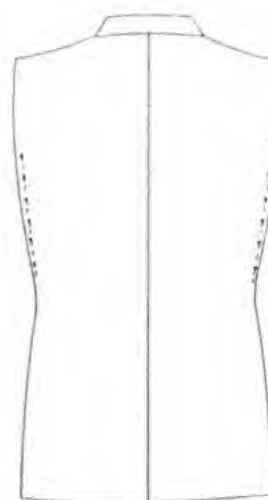
too tight



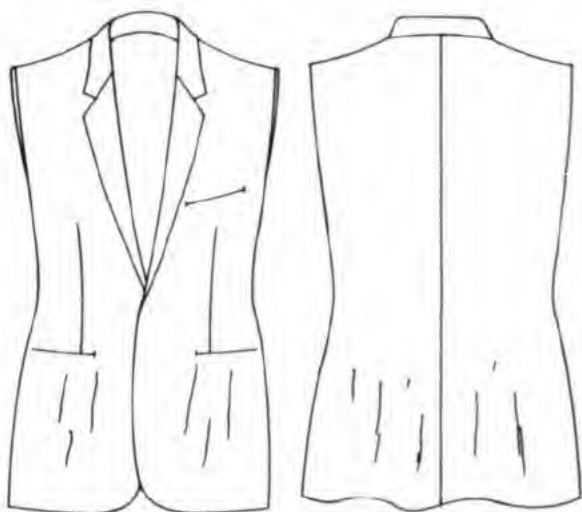
If the jacket is wrinkling above the waist because of too much or too little fabric, determine the amount of the correction by pinning (too much fabric), or by opening the side seams (too little fabric).

On the pattern, add or subtract the corrected amount not only from the underarm to the hip, but also at the armhole.

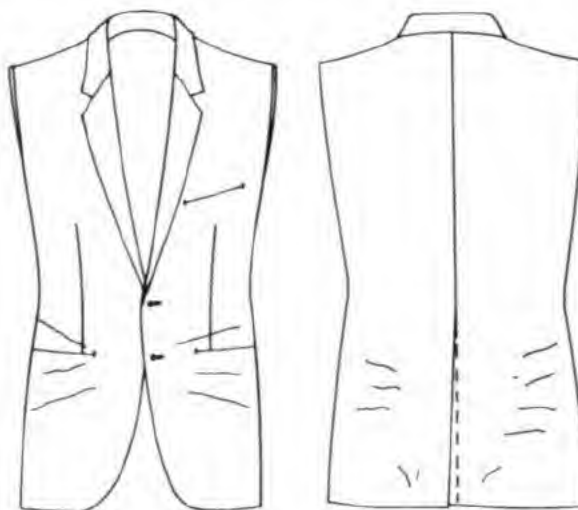
The horizontal line at the top of the side seams, back and front, is equal to the side seam allowance. When your pattern correction is complete, that horizontal line must measure the same as it did before you began to correct the pattern. Therefore, whatever amount is added or subtracted from the side seam must inversely be subtracted or added at the armhole. Failure to do this will result in a gap at the back of the armhole which will destroy the armhole contour.



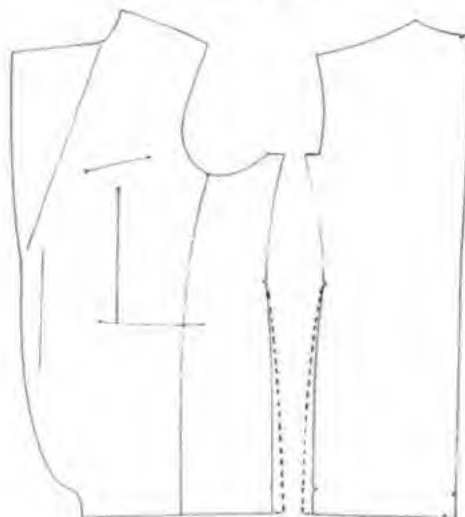
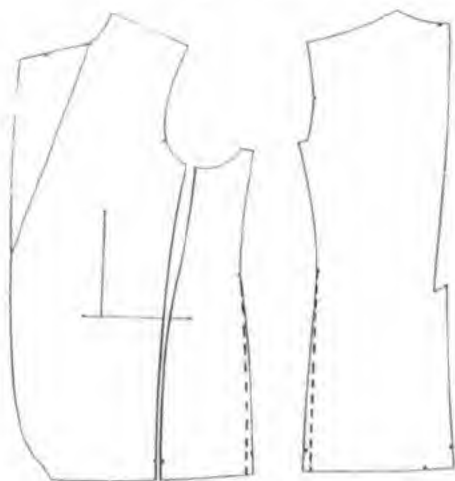
## TOO LOOSE/TOO TIGHT BELOW WAIST



too loose

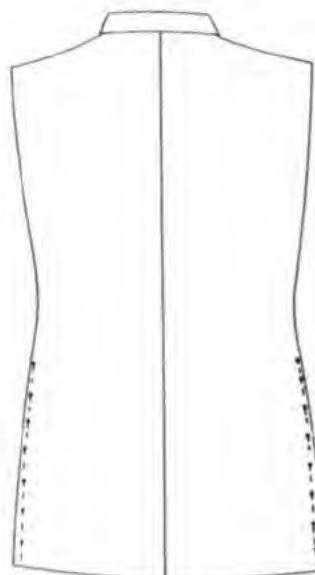


too tight



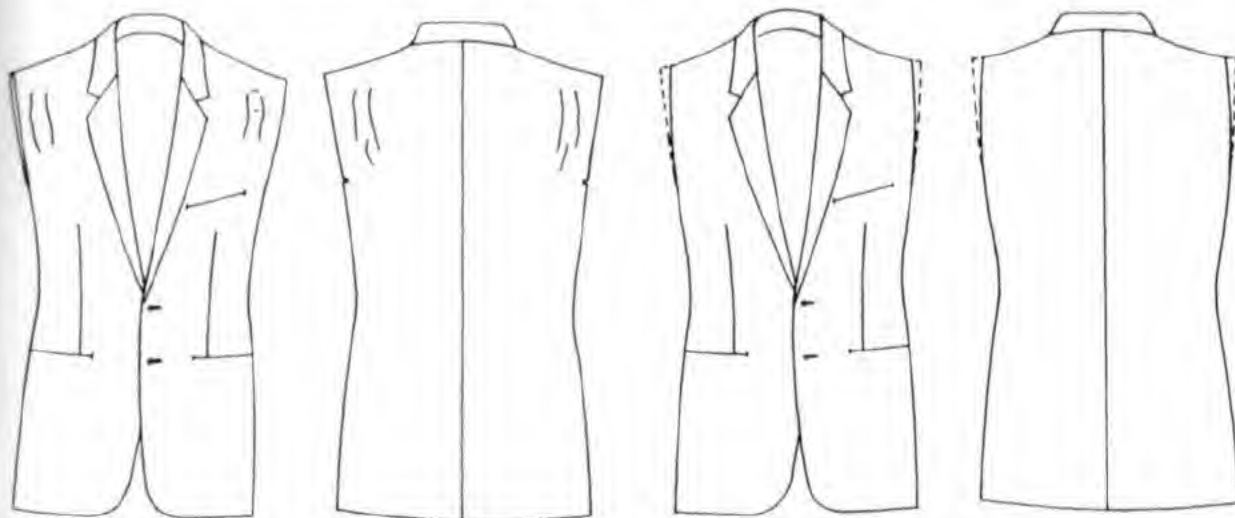
There should be no wrinkling on the jacket below the waist, on front or back, and the vent should lie closed, without pulling to one side or to the other.

On the pattern, add or subtract the corrected amount at the bottom of the side seam, and taper gradually to the waist.

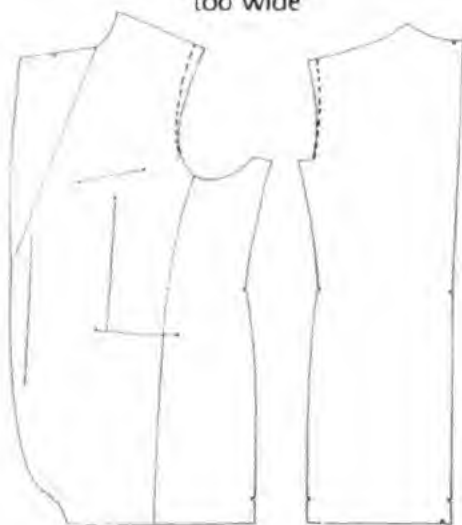




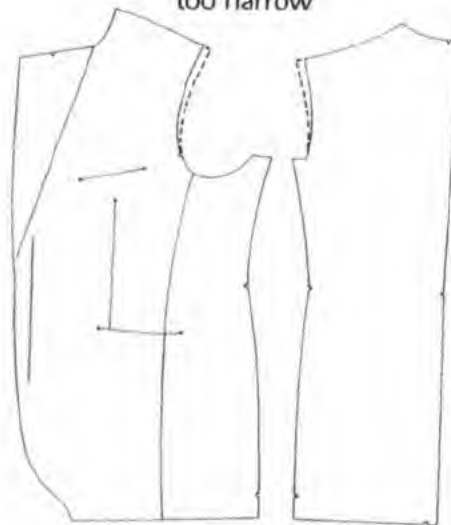
## SHOULDER—TOO WIDE/TOO NARROW



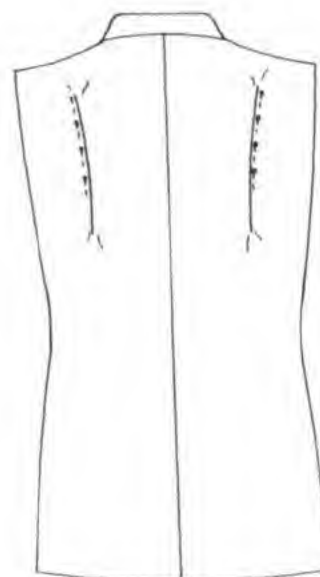
too wide



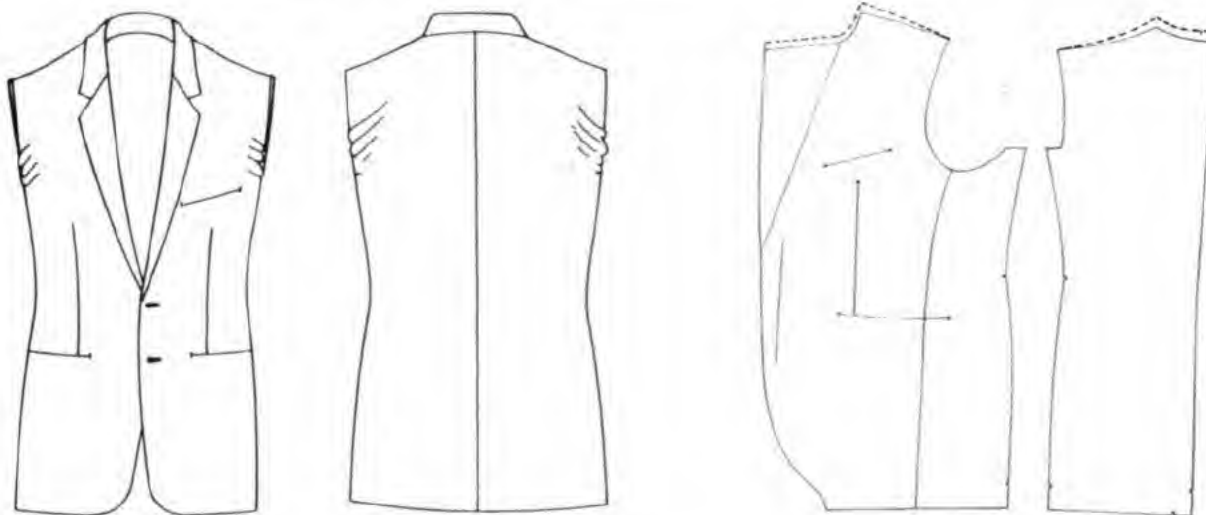
too narrow



If the jacket is too wide or too narrow across the shoulder, determine the amount of the adjustment by pinning (wide), or measuring (narrow), and add or subtract that amount on the pattern shoulder, at the armhole.



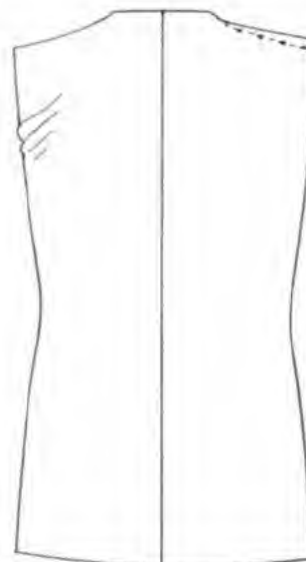
# SLOPED SHOULDER



If your client has sloped shoulders, and the jacket has been cut for normal shoulders, diagonal creases will appear, on front and back, at the bottom of the armhole. *These creases can most often be eliminated by increasing the amount of shoulder padding.*

When padding cannot solve the entire problem, open the shoulder seam and re-pin it to eliminate the creases. Measure the amount of the pinned correction at the armhole edge of the shoulder.

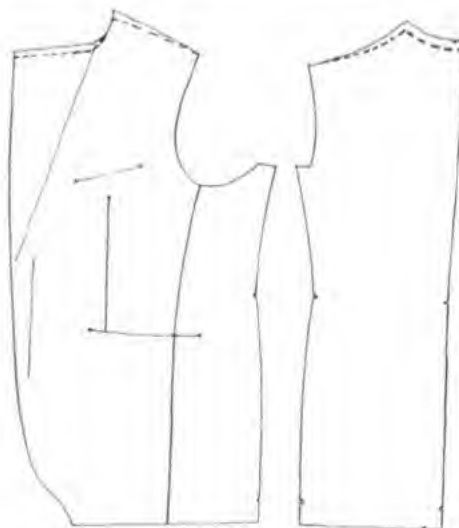
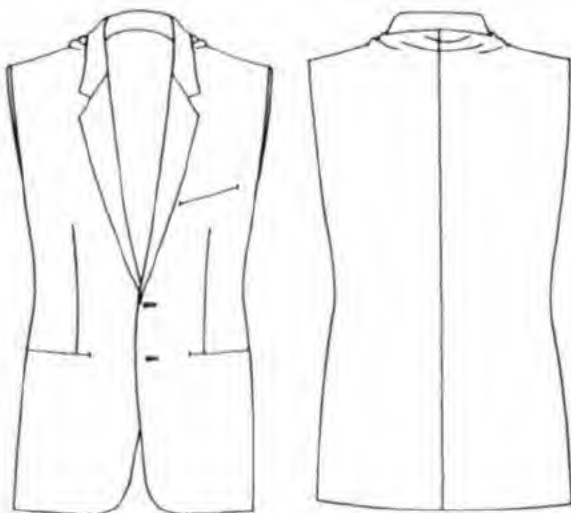
On the pattern front and back apply that measurement from the neck edge of the shoulder. The lapel is also raised by the amount of the pinned correction. The center back neck is raised by that amount plus  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm).



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## SQUARE SHOULDER

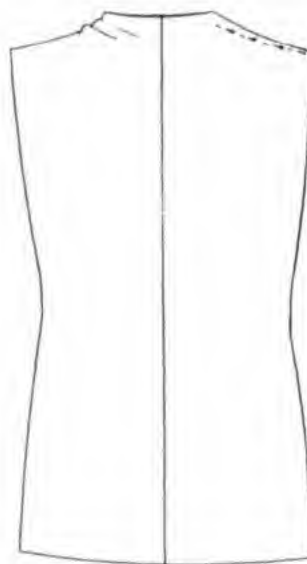
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If your client has square shoulders and the jacket has been cut for normal shoulders, circular creases will appear at the base of the collar, on front and back. Decreasing the amount of shoulder padding will sometimes solve the problem, but not always.

Remove the collar and re-pin the shoulder seam, eliminating the creases. Measure the amount of the pinned correction at the neck edge of the shoulder.

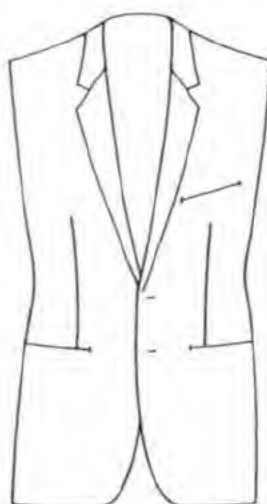
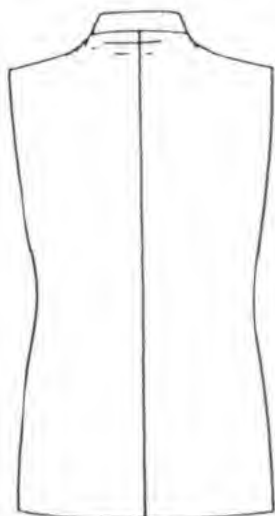
On the pattern front and back, apply the amount of the correction down from the neck edge of the shoulder. Also, lower the lapel and the back neck by that amount.



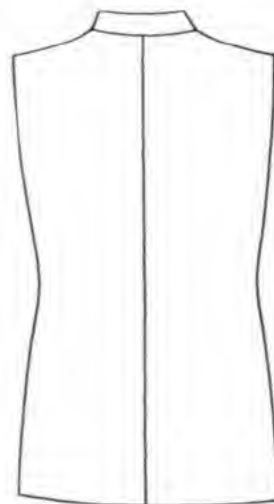
## NECKLINE—TOO HIGH/TOO LOW



too high



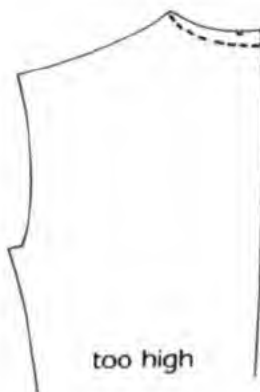
too low



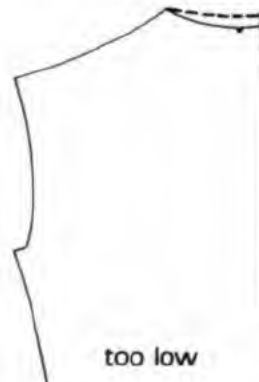
If the bottom of the collar does not sit on the shoulder at the back, but sits above or below shoulder level, the collar must be removed and the back neckline raised or lowered.

The amount of the adjustment can be determined easily if the fitting is done over a shirt that fits well at the neckline. Raise or lower the jacket neckline at the back to allow about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) of the shirt collar to be visible above the jacket collar.

Apply the depth of the adjustment to the pattern neckline at center back.



too high

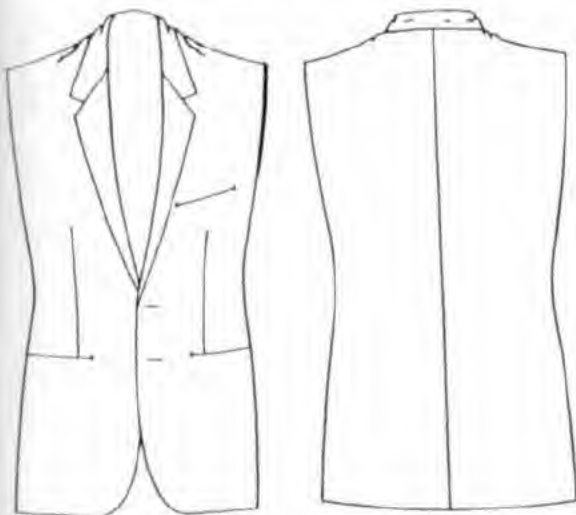


too low

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## TIGHT NECKLINE

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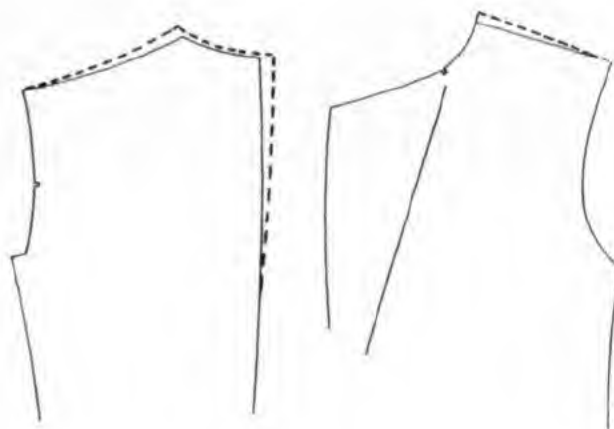


If the jacket neckline is too tight, the armhole seam at the shoulder will show signs of pulling towards the neck. There will be creases on the front shoulder, reaching out from the neck towards the armhole.

The collar will be a bit high if the neckline is too tight, but the height of the collar will be less obvious than the pulling of the fabric in the shoulder and neckline area. Once the neckline is released, the collar should settle to a comfortable height.

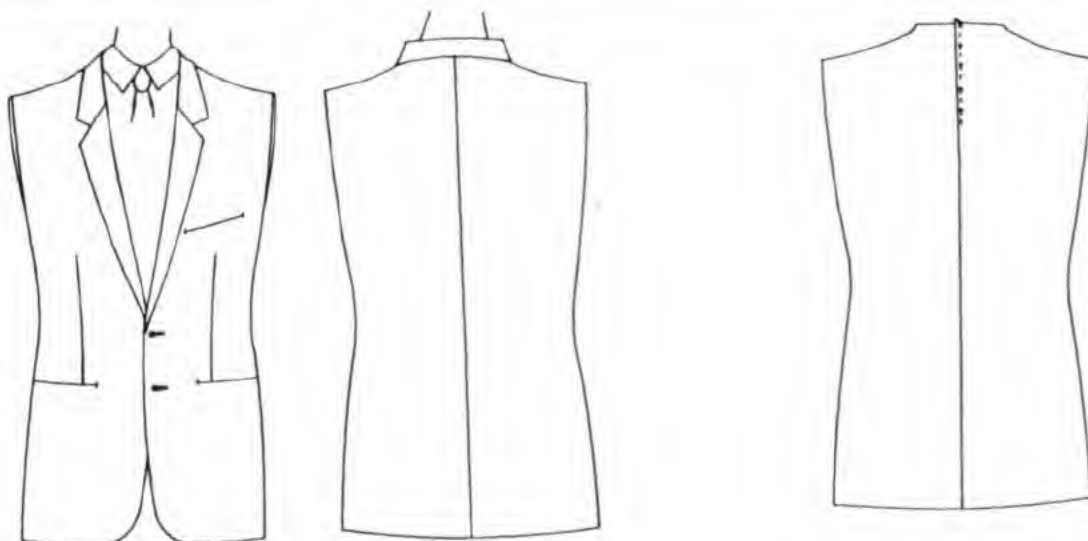
Remove the collar. Open the muslin shoulder seam and the top of the center back seam, and let the jacket settle at the neckline.

The adjustment should be distributed equally at the neckline between the shoulder seam and the center back seam.





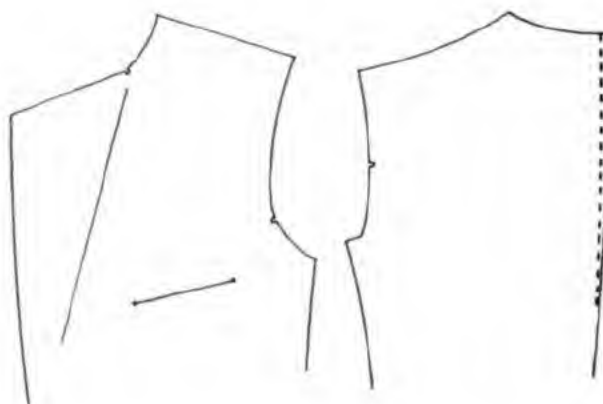
# LOOSE NECKLINE



If the jacket neckline is too loose, the jacket will pull away from the body at the back neck; and in the front, the lapel will gape open uncomfortably.

Remove the collar, and pin a tuck in the center back seam until the neckline hugs the body more closely.

Apply the depth of the adjustment at the neck edge of the center back seam.



## ARMHOLE—TOO HIGH/TOO LOW



Contrary to popular belief, the most comfortable armhole for a sleeve is one which is cut as high as possible without restricting the forward movement of the arm. A low-cut armhole is only comfortable if a sleeve is not attached. With a sleeve set into a low-cut armhole, raising one's arm involves raising the entire side of the jacket.

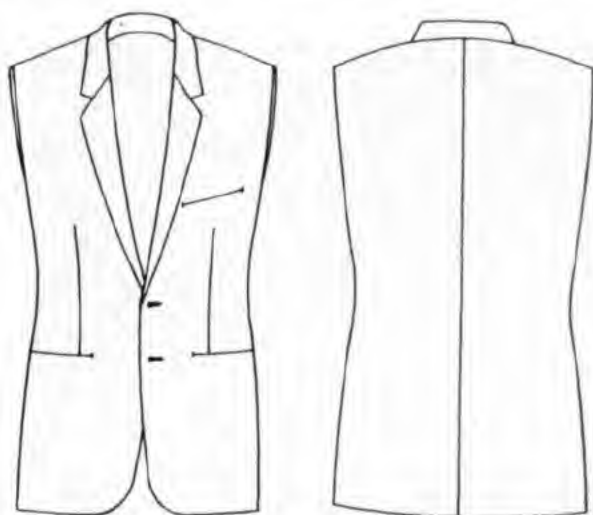
The cutting edge of the fabric should be about 1" (2.5 cm) below the center underarm.



Raise or lower the pattern the depth of the adjustment at mid-underarm, and at the top of the side seam, back and front. This adjustment at the top of the side seams is necessary to maintain the contour of the armhole.

The armhole should also be "scooped" slightly in the front notch area, if wrinkles develop when the arm is resting at the side. Trim the fabric, a little at a time, until the wrinkles disappear.

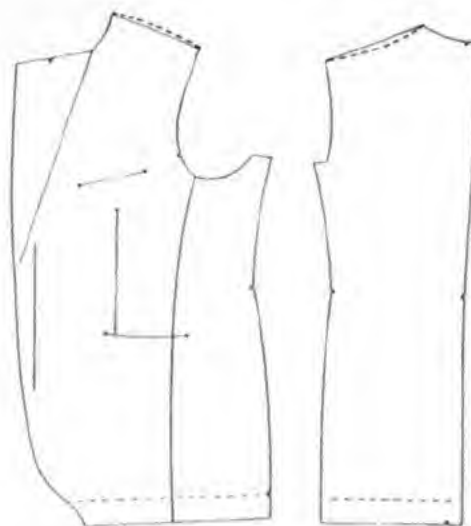
## SHOULDER—NOT CONCAVE



The shoulder should have a graceful concave shape as illustrated in the photo, rather than the bulky convex shape in the illustration.

Adjust the pattern by adding  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) at the center of the shoulder front and subtracting  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the center of the shoulder back, tapering to the armhole and neckline seams.

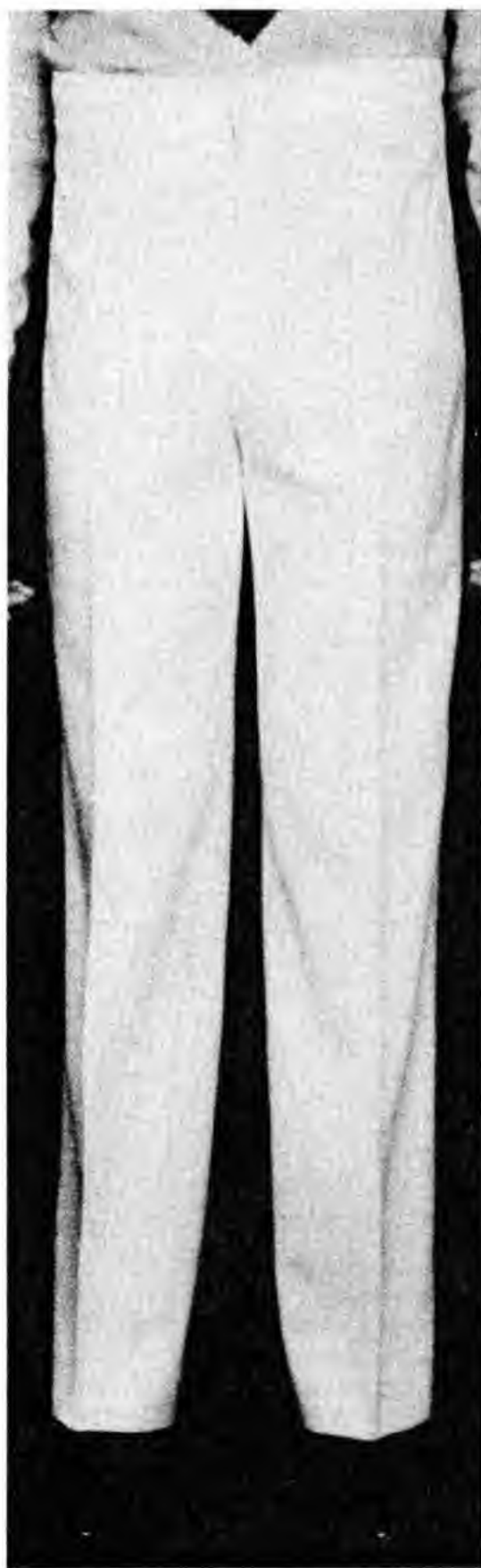
A correctly shaped shoulder pad is also necessary in order to achieve this concave shoulderline (page 132). The padding should be concentrated at the armhole edge of the shoulder, tapering to *no* thickness in the pad at all by mid-shoulder.



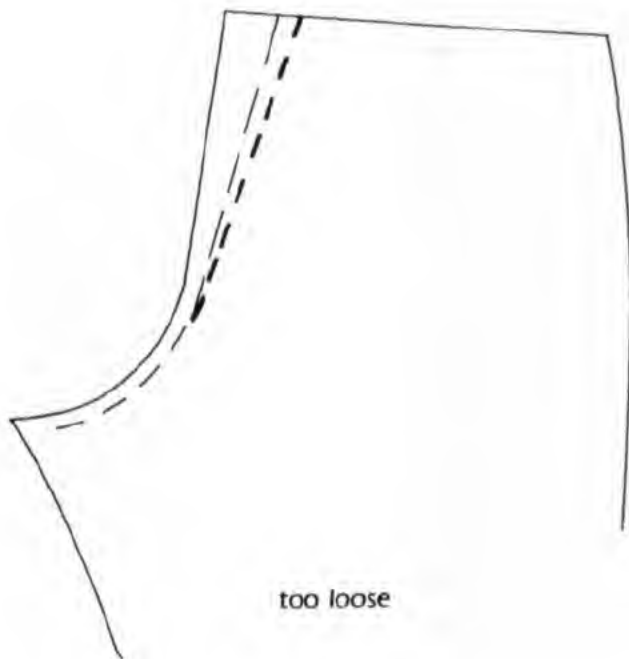
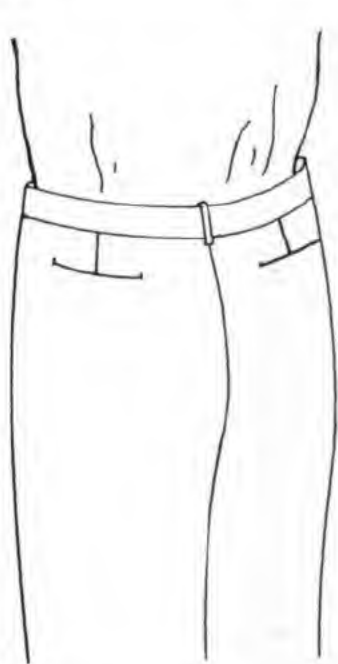
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## THE PANTS

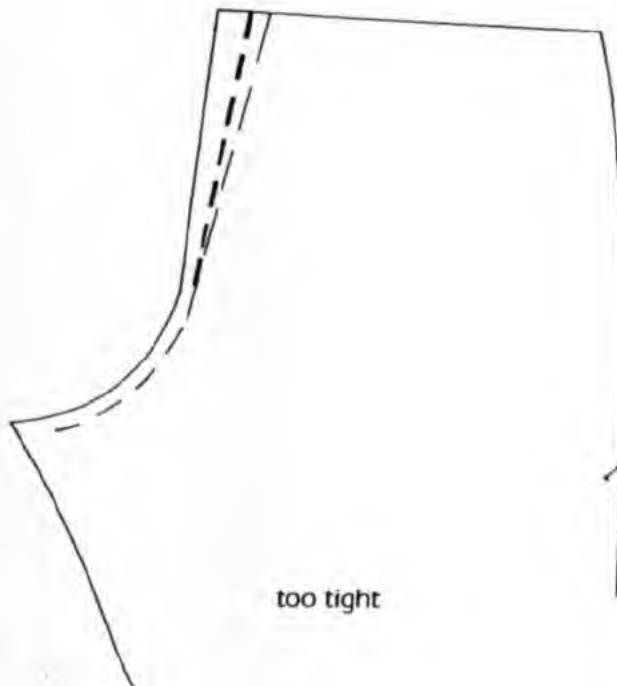
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## WAISTLINE—TOO LOOSE/TOO TIGHT



too loose



too tight

The first point to check in the fit of the pants is the *waistline*. Only when the waist fits comfortably can the pants settle into place on the body. If the waist is too loose, pin the center back seam to a comfortable fit. Note the amount of the correction. If the waist is too tight, open the center back seam and re-pin it, using as much of the seam allowance as necessary.

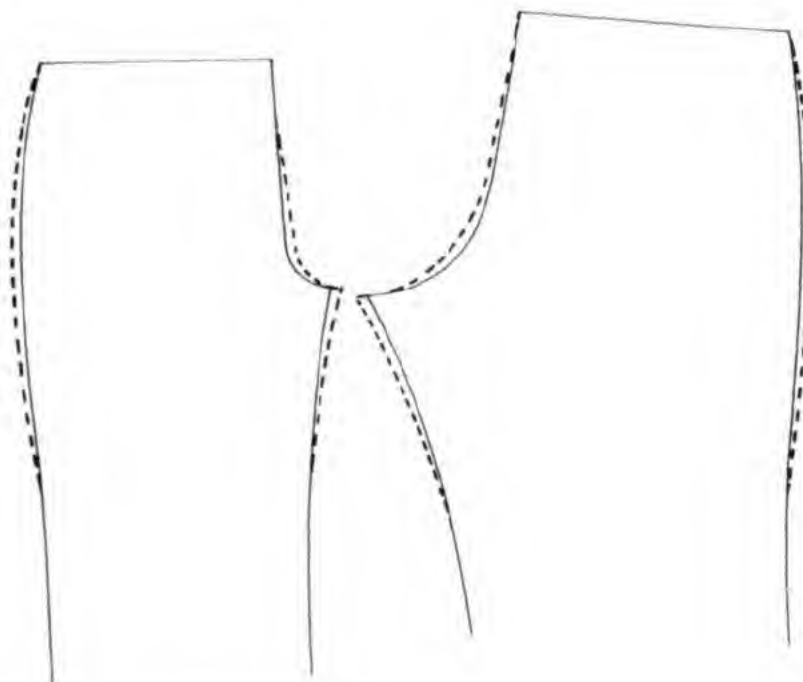
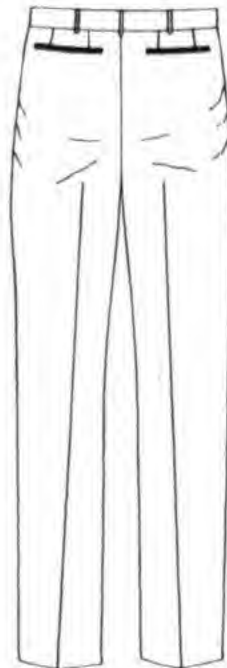
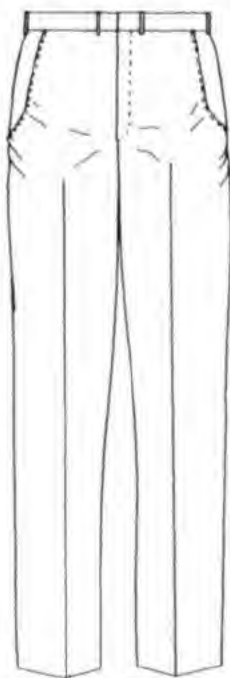
Add or subtract the indicated amount on the pattern at the center back seam.



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## TOO TIGHT ACROSS HIPS

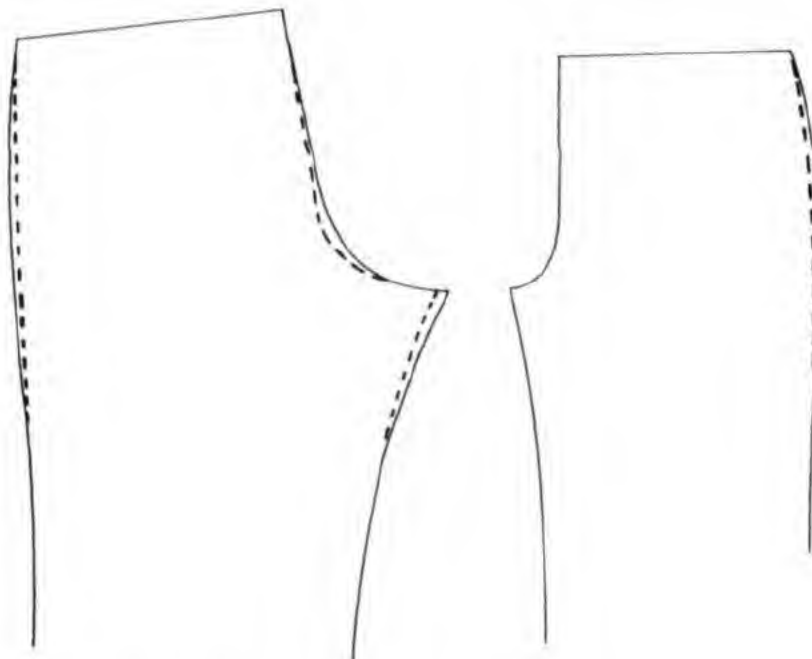
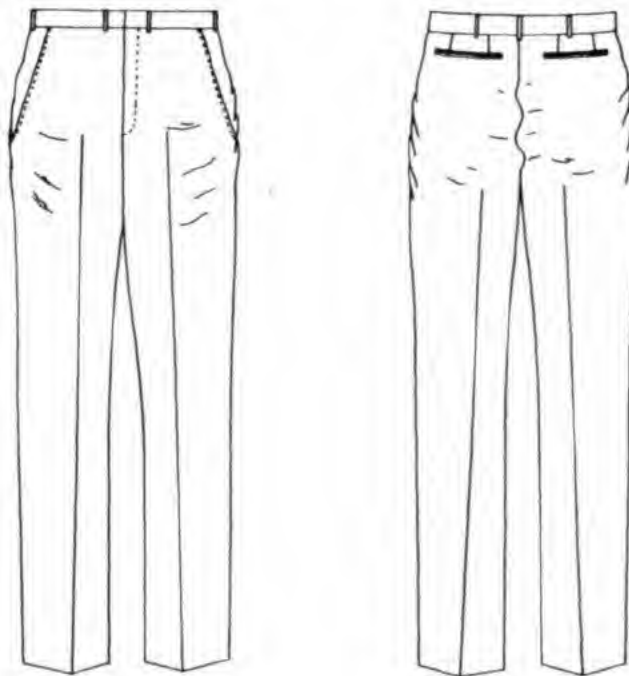
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If the pants are too tight across the hips,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) is the most we can *add* without disturbing the balance of the pants. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) is *added* at three points on the pattern pants front and back.

The adjustment is *out* at the top of the inseam, *out* at the crotch at hip level, and *out* at the side seam at hip level.

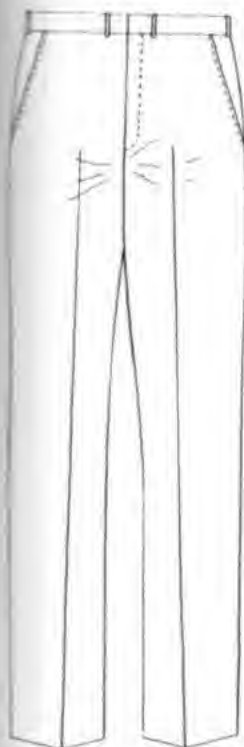
## TOO LOOSE ACROSS HIPS



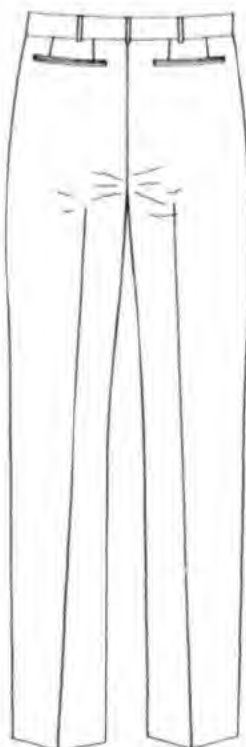
If the pants are too loose across the hips,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) is the most we can *subtract* without disturbing the balance of the pants. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) is *subtracted* from the pattern front, and at three points on the pattern back.

The adjustment is *in* at the side seams at hip level, *in* at the top of the back inseam, and *in* at the back of the crotch at hip level.

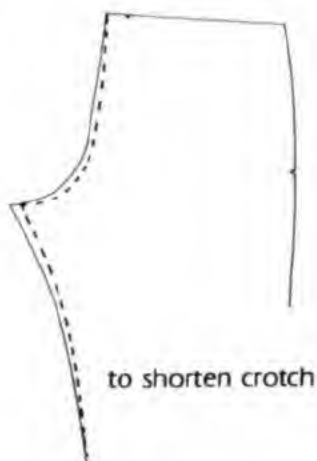
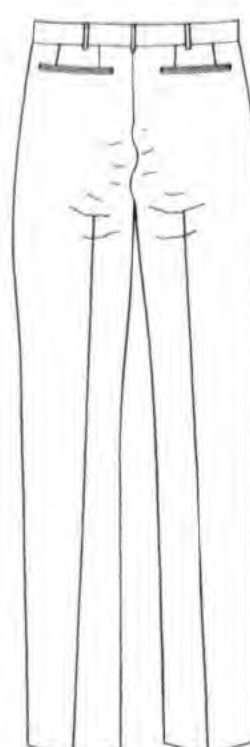
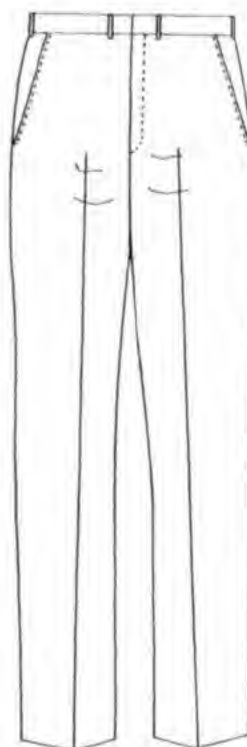
## CROTCH—TOO SHORT/TOO LONG



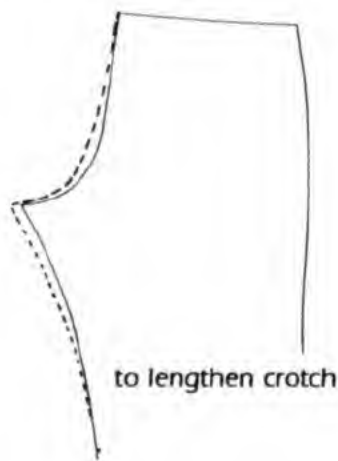
too short



too long



to shorten crotch

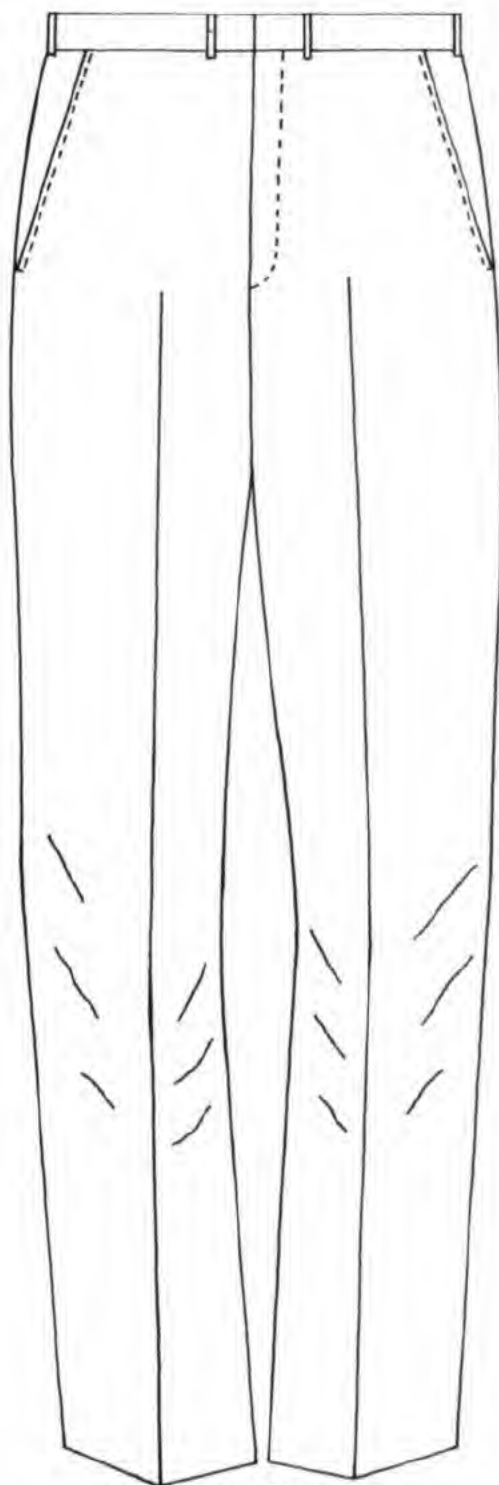


to lengthen crotch

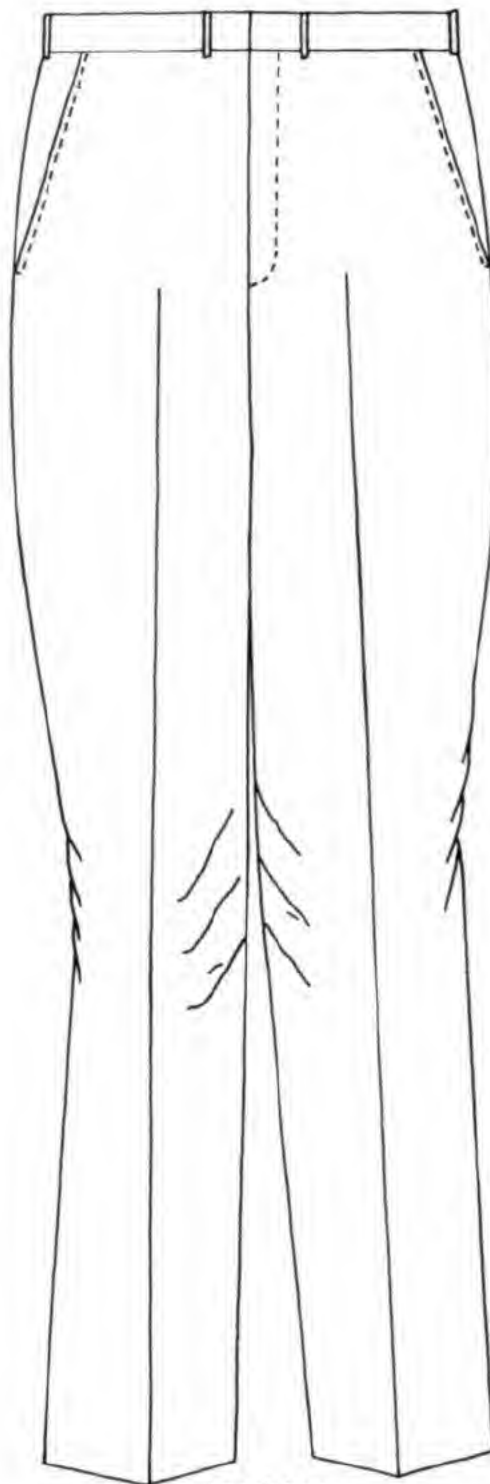
If wrinkles are concentrated in the crotch area, the hips are probably fine, but the crotch length must be corrected. Tight, pulling creases radiating from the crotch indicate a short crotch. Sagging, loose creases indicate a crotch that is too long.

Depending upon the amount of wrinkling, adjust the crotch between  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) and 1" (2.5 cm). Add or subtract this corrected amount on the *pattern back only*, by extending out or in from both the top of the inseam, and the center back seam at hip level.

## BOWLEGS/KNOCK-KNEES



bowlegs



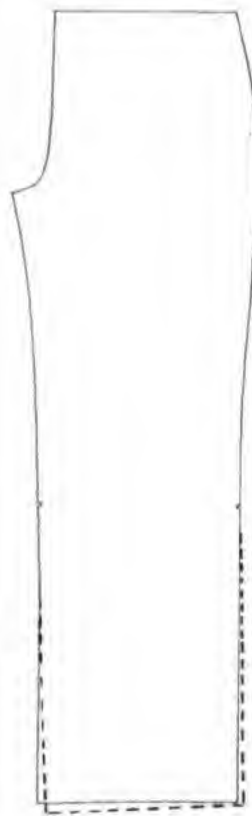
knock-knees

The pants will wrinkle noticeably at the knee if the client has bowlegs or knock-knees. A simple correction of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) to 1" (2.5 cm) will usually allow the pants to fall smoothly, despite the knee problem.



## Bowlegs

Apply the same adjustment amount in and down at the bottom of the outseams, and out at the bottom of the inseams.



## Knock-Knees

Apply the adjustment amount in and down at the bottom of the inseams, and out at the bottom of the outseams.



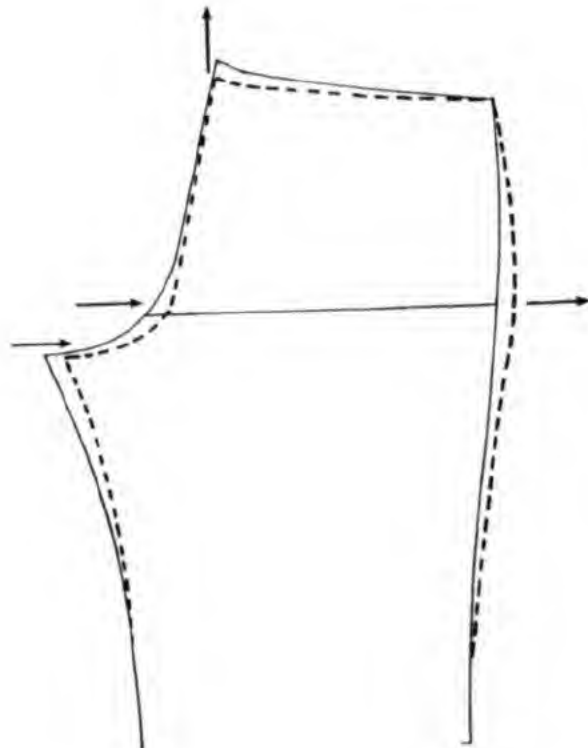
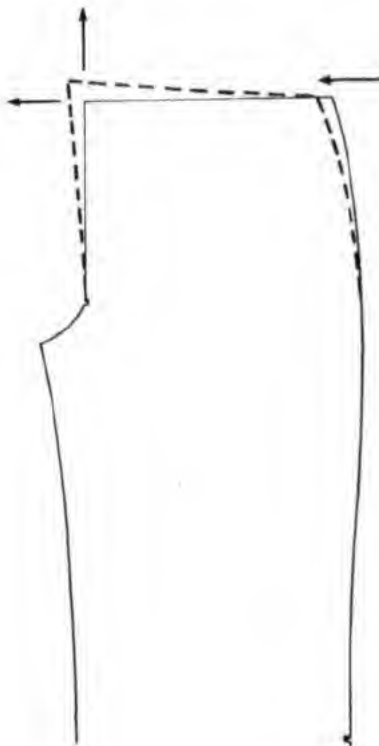
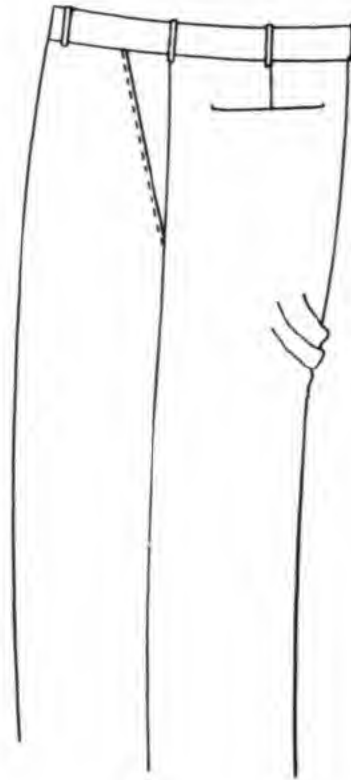
# FLAT SEAT

Semi-circular wrinkles, or folds will appear at the back of the pants if the client has very flat buttocks, or if he stands with his hips thrust forward. In both cases the pants will also hit the calf of the leg at the back, rather than fall smoothly to the floor.

Determine the amount of the correction by the volume of the folds. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) correction is about average.

Apply the adjusted amount at three points on the front of the pants pattern and at four points on the back. If, for example, you use  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) as the corrected amount, measure out  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) at the hip, down  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) at the center back waistline, and in  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) at both the crotch hip level and the top of the inseam. The correction on the pants front pattern involves measuring in  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) at the waistline side seam, and both out and up  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) at the center front waistline.

A hip curve ruler will be essential in tapering these new points to meet one another. All of the new lines, except for the center front seam, are curved lines.

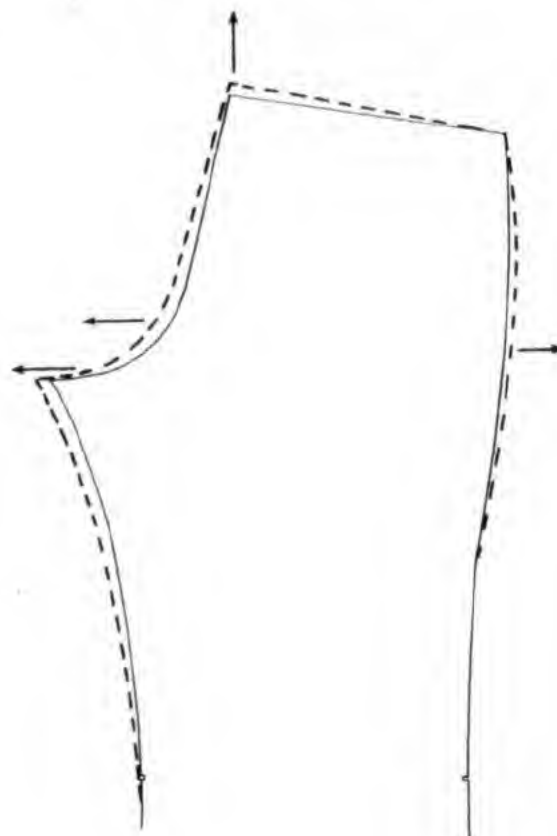
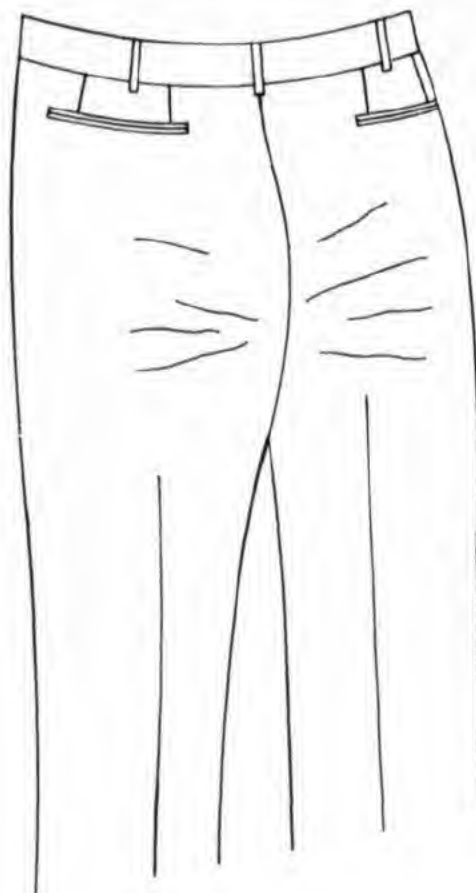


## PROMINENT SEAT

Pulling occurs across the back of the pants if the buttocks are full, or if the client's overly erect posture causes the hip to be thrown backward and upward. The pants are also distorted by hitting the bottom of the leg in the front rather than falling smoothly to the floor.

Determine the amount of the pattern correction by the amount of pulling at the back— $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) is about average.

Apply this corrected amount at three points on the pants back pattern: out from the top of the inseam, and from the crotch at hip level, and up at the center back waistline. The pants must also be extended out at the side seam at hip level. However,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) additional shaping would be too much at the hip for most men. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) at the side seam at the hip level and taper the line.



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# THE VEST

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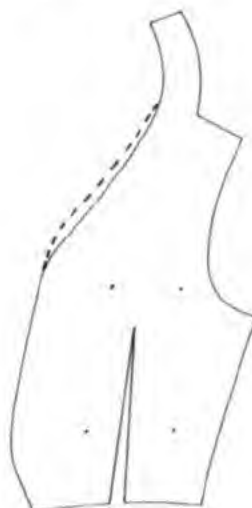
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## VEST FRONT—TOO LOW/TOO HIGH

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Only one vest button should be visible when both vest and jacket are buttoned. Too much vest distracts from the cut of the jacket lapel. However, if the vest is *not visible*, it may as well be eliminated. If necessary, taper your vest front pattern using the hip curve.

low vest front



high vest front



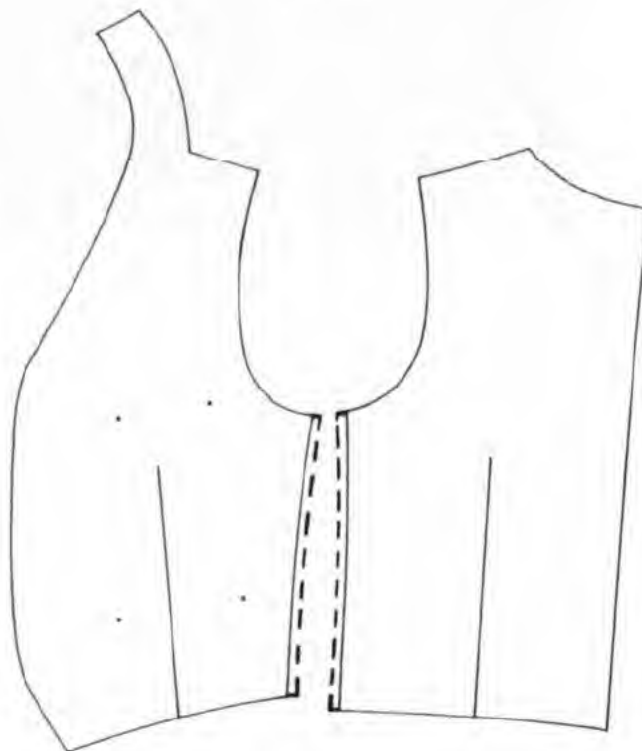
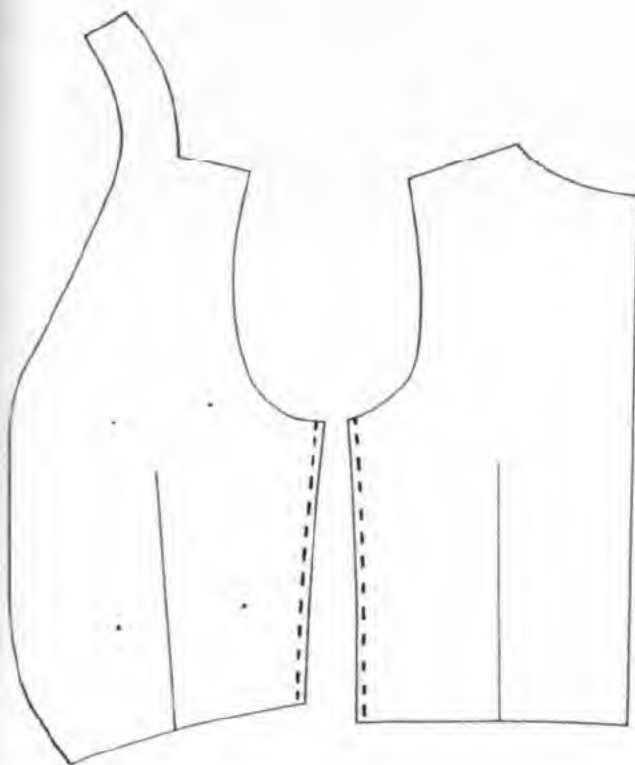
## VEST—TOO LOOSE/TOO TIGHT



loose vest



tight vest



If the vest is too loose or too tight, distribute the amount of the adjustment equally between the front and back side seams.

If the amount of the adjustment is significant, it may be necessary to move the pocket placement line so that the pockets remain centered on the vest front.

# 4 Fabric



## SELECTING THE FABRIC

If you want the very finest fabric for classic tailoring, choose wool. There is an endless variety of beautiful fabrics available to us today, most of which will respond favorably to certain tailoring features. There is no reason to limit your wardrobe to one fabric. However, full tailoring procedures (canvas, haircloth, tape, etc.) will produce their best results for wool. Silk and linen are close seconds.

Wool fabric has a distinctive personality which relates better with tailoring procedures than any other fabric. There is no disagreement among tailors on this.

The tailoring techniques described in this book, direct you at times, to stretch the fabric, or to shrink it, to mold it to fit the contours of the human body. Wool fabric is somehow able to take on this newly molded shape and to hold it as if it had always been its own. This is unique among fabrics.

Wool comes in a variety of weights and characteristics, which can be worn comfortably

from the tropics to the Arctic, year-round. It is durable, has a long-life expectancy, and handles beautifully at the sewing machine.

There are two major wool categories:

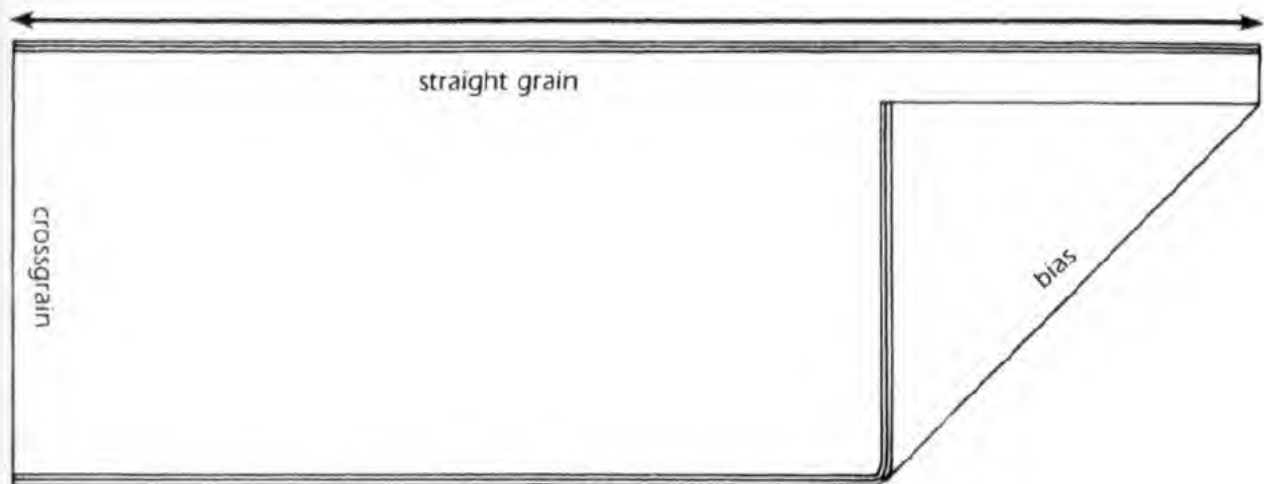
- Worsted
- Woolens

*Worsted* fabric is woven from long, finely combed wool fibers which have been twisted tightly, and then woven tightly. The effect is a fabric with a firm, flat surface, as in a serge, or a gabardine. The traditional tailored business suits are made from worsteds rather than from woolens.

*Woolens* are woven from relatively short wool fibers, which have not been combed smooth. These fibers are twisted loosely and then woven much less tightly than the worsteds. The effect is a soft, easy fabric, such as a Harris tweed, or a flannel. Woolens are more suited to comfortable, sporty garments than they are to business suits.



# PROPERTIES OF WOVEN FABRICS



## The Grain

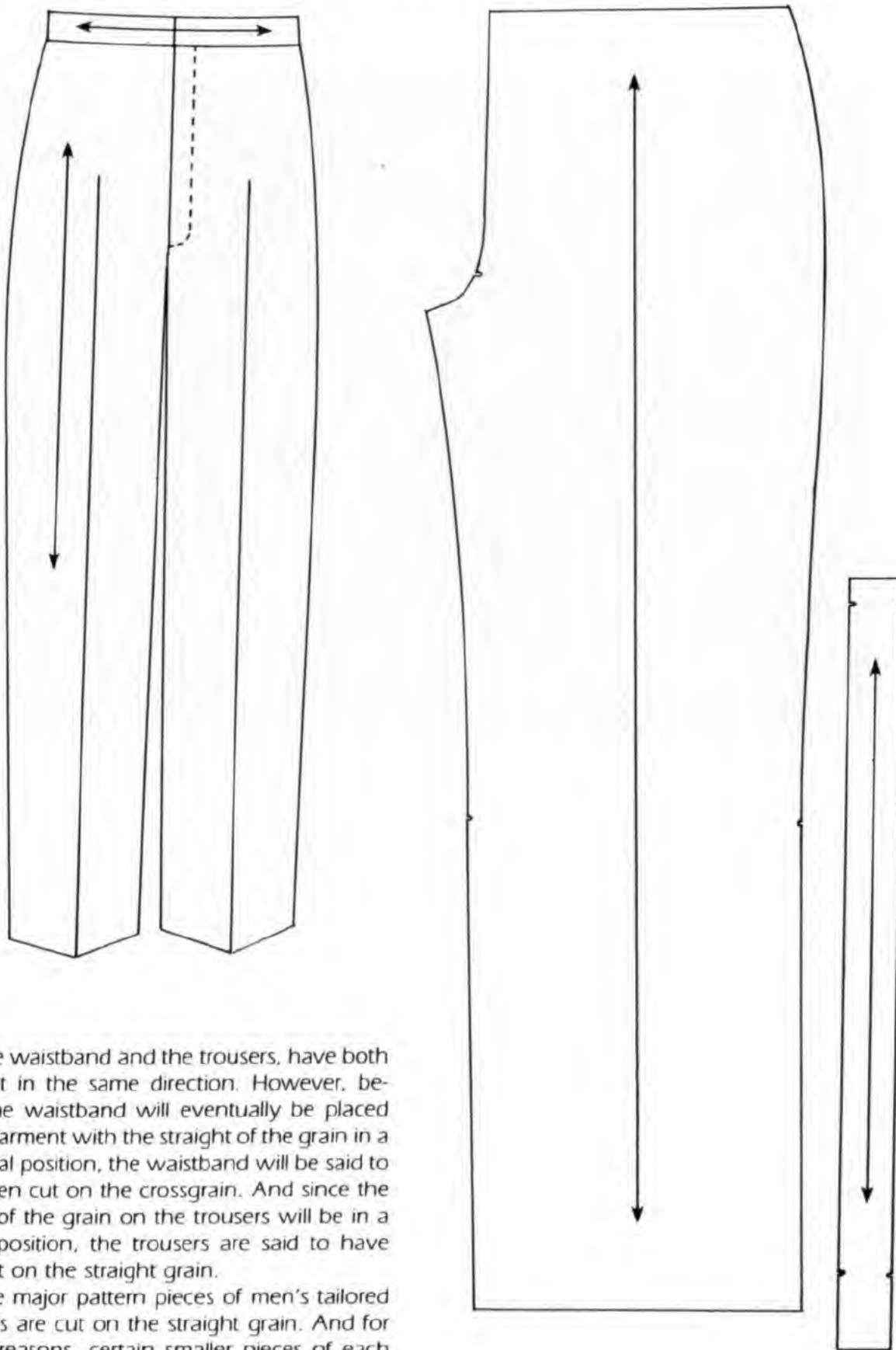
Woven fabric is made by interlacing threads at right angles to one another, evenly or in patterns. The lengthwise thread (the warp) runs parallel to the *selvage* (the finished edge along the length of the fabric at either end). The lengthwise of the fabric is called the *straight grain*. The crosswise thread (the weft), the *crossgrain*, runs at a right angle to the selvage. There is no thread running diagonally across the fabric. However, the diagonal direction of the fabric is called the *bias*. The lengthwise thread must be strong to withstand the workings of the loom, and to support the fabric. The crosswise thread need not be quite as strong.

Because of the strength of the lengthwise thread, and the fact that the crosswise thread will "give" or drape gently in response to gravity, most garments will hang best if they are cut so that the lengthwise thread hangs vertically.

Garments cut on the crossgrain (with the crossgrain hanging vertically) hang less comfortably and somewhat stiffly. Garments cut on the bias (with the bias hanging vertically) have neither the lengthwise nor the crosswise thread to support them directly. Therefore, the fabric finds it difficult to hold a shape. Bias-cut garments drape beautifully, and they stretch.

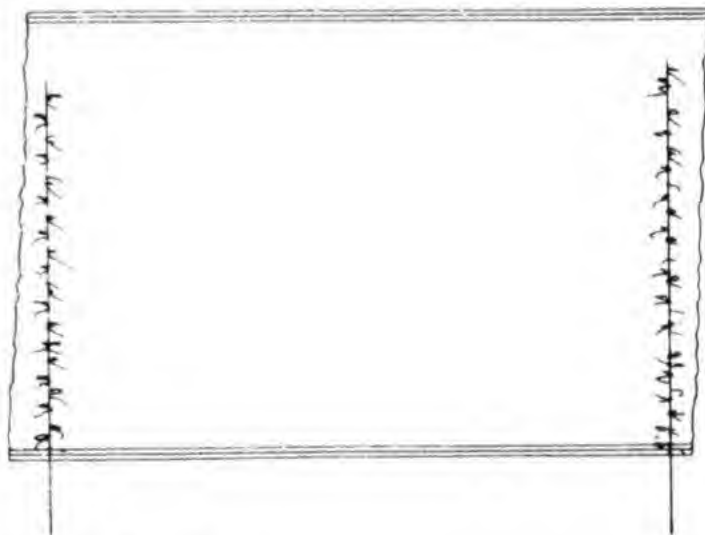
Whether you are cutting a bias skirt, or a crossgrain waistband, or a straight grain pair of trousers, the directions for cutting are always the same. Every pattern piece should be placed on the fabric so that the *arrow* on the pattern is *parallel* to the *lengthwise grain* of the fabric.

To say that something is cut on the crossgrain, or on the bias, has less to do with the direction in which it is cut than it has to do with the direction in which it is worn.



The waistband and the trousers, have both been cut in the same direction. However, because the waistband will eventually be placed on the garment with the straight of the grain in a horizontal position, the waistband will be said to have been cut on the crossgrain. And since the straight of the grain on the trousers will be in a vertical position, the trousers are said to have been cut on the straight grain.

The major pattern pieces of men's tailored garments are cut on the straight grain. And for various reasons, certain smaller pieces of each garment are cut on the crossgrain or on the bias.

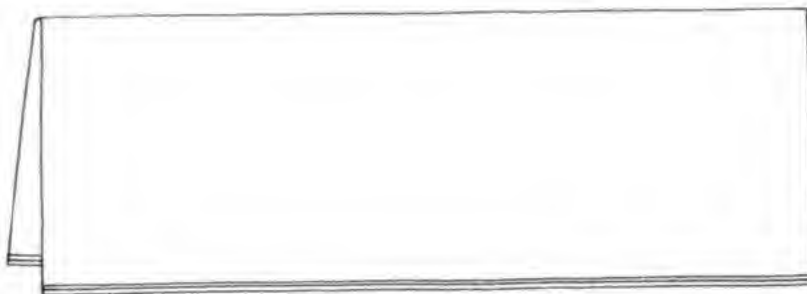


## Straightening the Grain

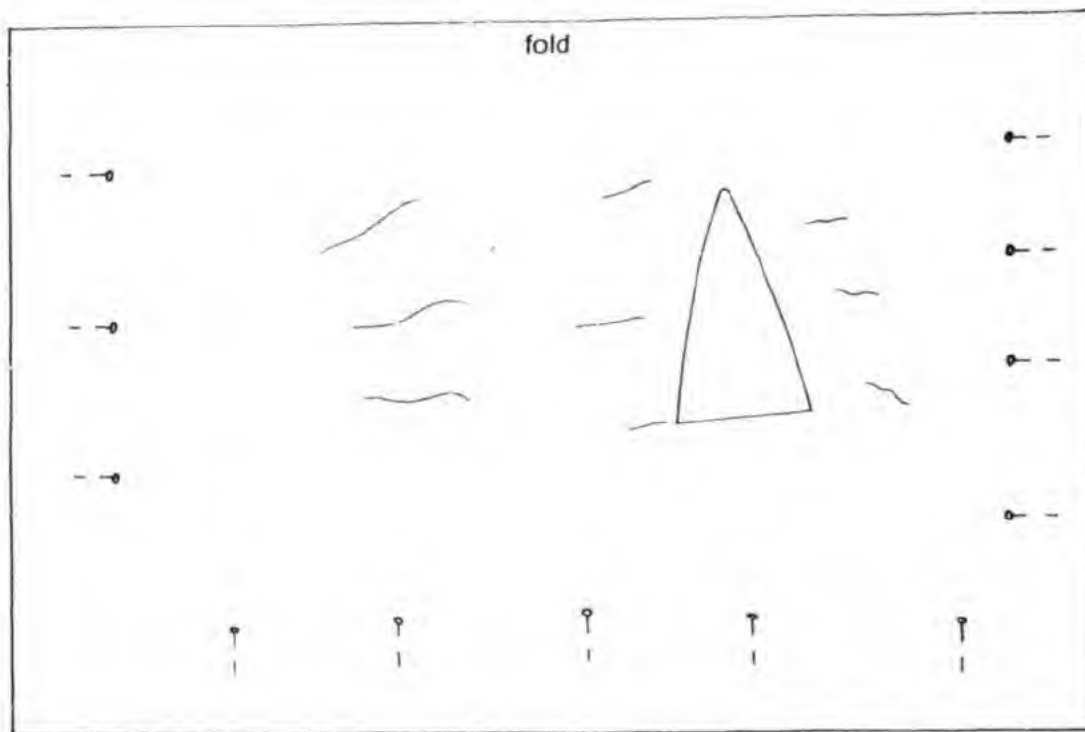
Now, a word about *off grain*. Somewhere from the loom to you, the fabric grain may have been distorted. Considering the importance the grain plays in the hang of your finished garment, it would be wise to check the grain alignment before cutting the fabric. What we are doing is checking to see if the crosswise threads and the lengthwise threads are running at right angles or perpendicular to one another. If they are not, everything we have discussed about placing the arrows on the pattern parallel with the selvage, will be useless.

To check the grain alignment, pull a crosswise thread from selvage to selvage, across either end of your fabric. Do this at the very end of your fabric yardage, so that you do not waste fabric. The puckering along the pulled thread indicates the exact line of the crossgrain.

Cut the fabric along the puckered thread at either end.



Fold the fabric selvage to selvage, right sides together. See if the fabric will lie comfortably in a perfect rectangle. If it will not, the crosswise and lengthwise threads are no longer running perpendicular. The fabric is *off grain* and must be coaxed back into place.



To coax the fabric back into place, pin the folded fabric into the rectangular shape it should have. Steam press from selvage to fold, on the wrong side, until the ripples in the fabric disappear. Washable fabrics which are off grain can be gently pulled back into shape while they are damp. This should be done on a flat surface, a small area at a time.

## Shrinkage

Woven natural fibers are susceptible to shrinkage. All woven fabrics, which will become part of your garment such as the wool canvas interfacing, the twill tape, the pocketing, and the garment fabric itself, must be *preshrunk*. The French collar canvas and the haircloth used as stiffening, are exceptions.

Even if the label on the garment fabric says that it has been preshrunk, you are safer if, before cutting, you have the fabric steam-pressed and preshrunk professionally by a dry cleaner.

Shrink the wool canvas interfacing by soaking it in cool water for about one hour. Let it drip dry and then steam press *well*. The cotton twill tape can be soaked in cool water and ironed wet. It will not lose its shape. Pocketing fabric is sufficiently shrunk by simply steam pressing it well. The lining fabrics we have suggested will not shrink during drycleaning.

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## The Nap

When the garment fabric has been pre-shrunk, is on grain and ready to go, run your hand lightly over the fabric, on the straight grain, first in one direction, then in the other. If the fabric feels the same in both directions, it has *no* discernible *nap*. If there is even the slightest difference to the touch, the fabric has a nap, and the direction of the nap is the direction in which the fabric feels smoother.

The direction of the nap is the direction in which short fibers on the surface of the fabric have been brushed. It is not important that these fibers feel different in one direction than in the other. What is important is that they reflect light differently. Therefore, the fabric will have a different color shading when it is held up in one direction than in the other.

The difference in color shading due to nap is often slight, and not discernible while you are working with the fabric flat on the table. If you ignore the nap and (for example) cut the jacket body with the nap down and the sleeves with the nap up, from across the room it may look as if you have cut the sleeves from completely different fabric.

The simplest way to avoid such problems is to determine the direction of the nap before you lay out your pattern pieces; to draw arrows on the fabric indicating the direction of the nap (the direction in which the fabric feels smoother); and to cut the pattern so that the nap on all pieces of the finished garment falls in the same direction.

Most fabrics are cut with the nap down. Cut this way, the fabric feels smoother if you run your hand downwards on the front of the jacket, than it does if you run your hand upwards. It's the same principle as petting a cat from front to back.

Velvet is sometimes cut with the nap up, because the deep pile catches the light best that way, and gives the fabric a richer color.

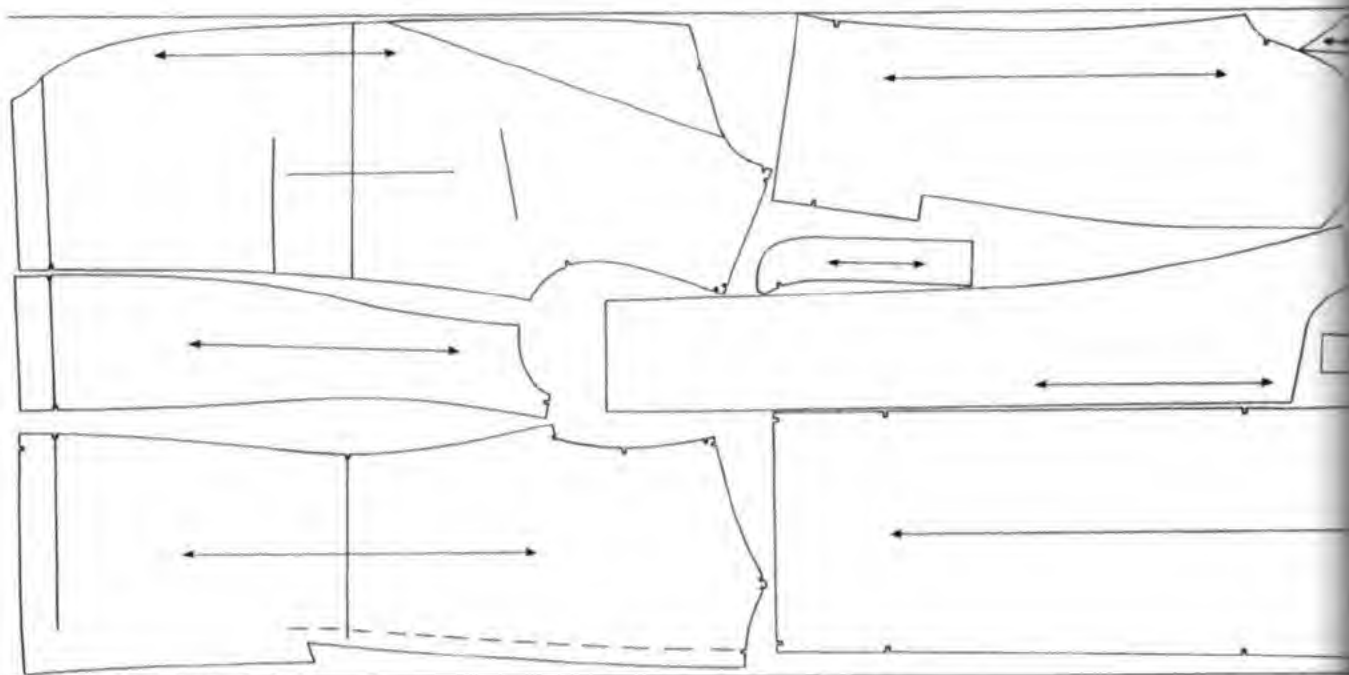
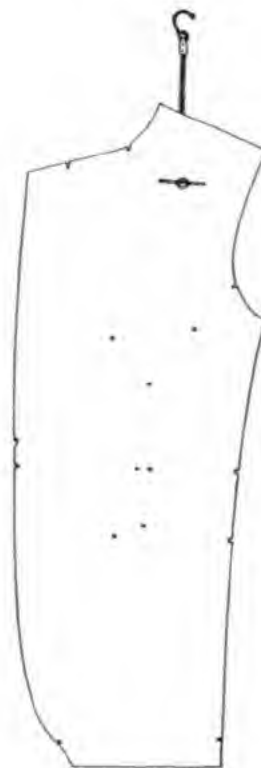
If the nap is so slight that you have difficulty in determining which direction is smoother, simply choose a direction, and mark arrows to that effect on the fabric. It is less important to have the direction of the nap correct than it is to cut all the pattern pieces *consistently*, in whatever direction you have chosen.

# 5 Layout/Cutting

If, after measuring the client, preshrinking the fabric, making and correcting a muslin, you are very anxious to get on with actually making the suit, you may not care to hear at this point that professional tailors do not use tissue paper patterns. They are just too unwieldy (the patterns, not the tailors).


The only positive quality about a tissue paper pattern seems to be that it fits neatly, or not so neatly, into a pattern envelope. On the negative side, it wrinkles, it tears, it flies away if you sneeze.

Tailors make their own patterns on sturdy paper or on oaktag. The oaktag pattern can be laid in place on the fabric, weighed down rather than pinned, and traced with tailor's chalk. Small holes are made in the oaktag pattern through which dart tips and pocket points can be marked. Notches are cut into the edge of the pattern at waistline, hemline, roll line, etc. When not in use, the patterns are hung neatly on pattern hooks.





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Except when cutting the sheerest dress fabrics, this method of pattern layout is faster and more accurate, because it eliminates pinning the pattern to the fabric. Besides being time-consuming, the process of pinning disrupts the lay of the fabric, making it very difficult to cut the two layers of fabric identically.

If you simply don't have the patience to transfer your pattern onto oaktag at the moment, you can still avoid pinning the pattern to the fabric by weighing down the tissue pattern. Tracing will not be quite as speedy without the stiff pattern edge to guide the chalk, but it will still be more accurate, and easier than pinning.

Keep the oaktag alternative in mind, especially for patterns that you use over and over again.

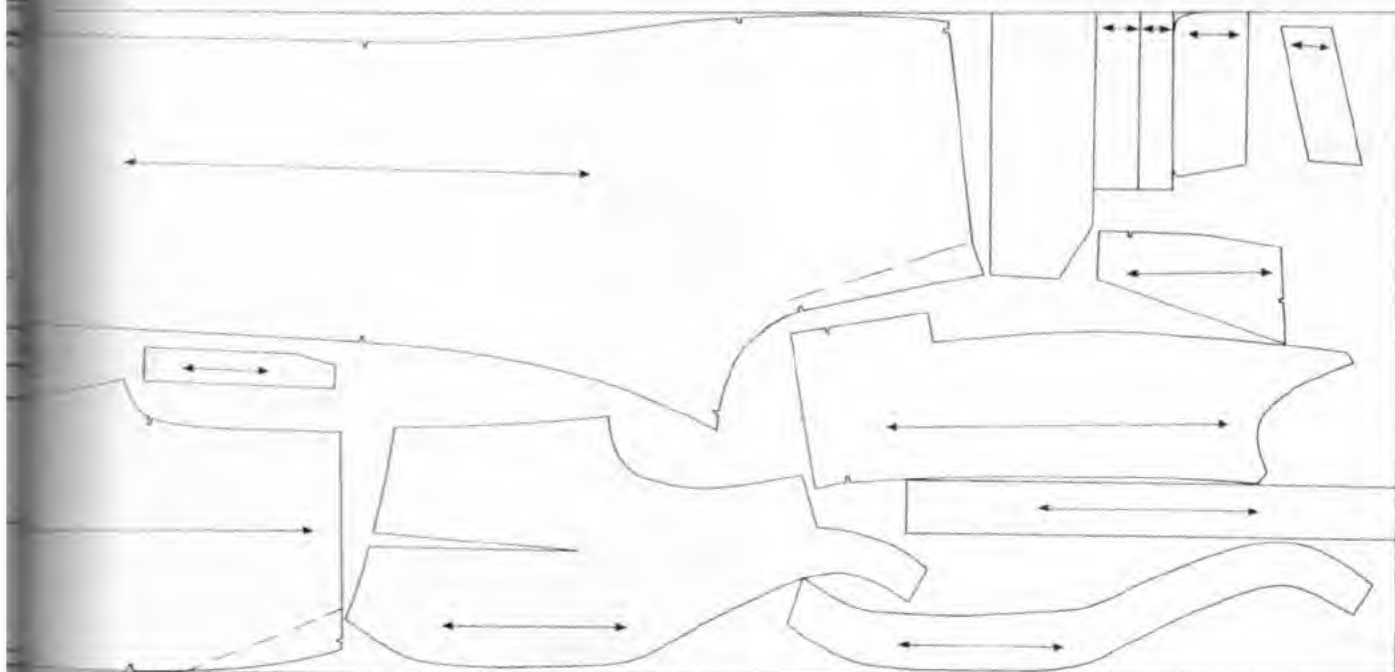
For your first few tailoring projects, we suggest that you purchase more fabric than your pattern requires, to allow for a few small errors in judgment and skill, pocket flaps, etc.

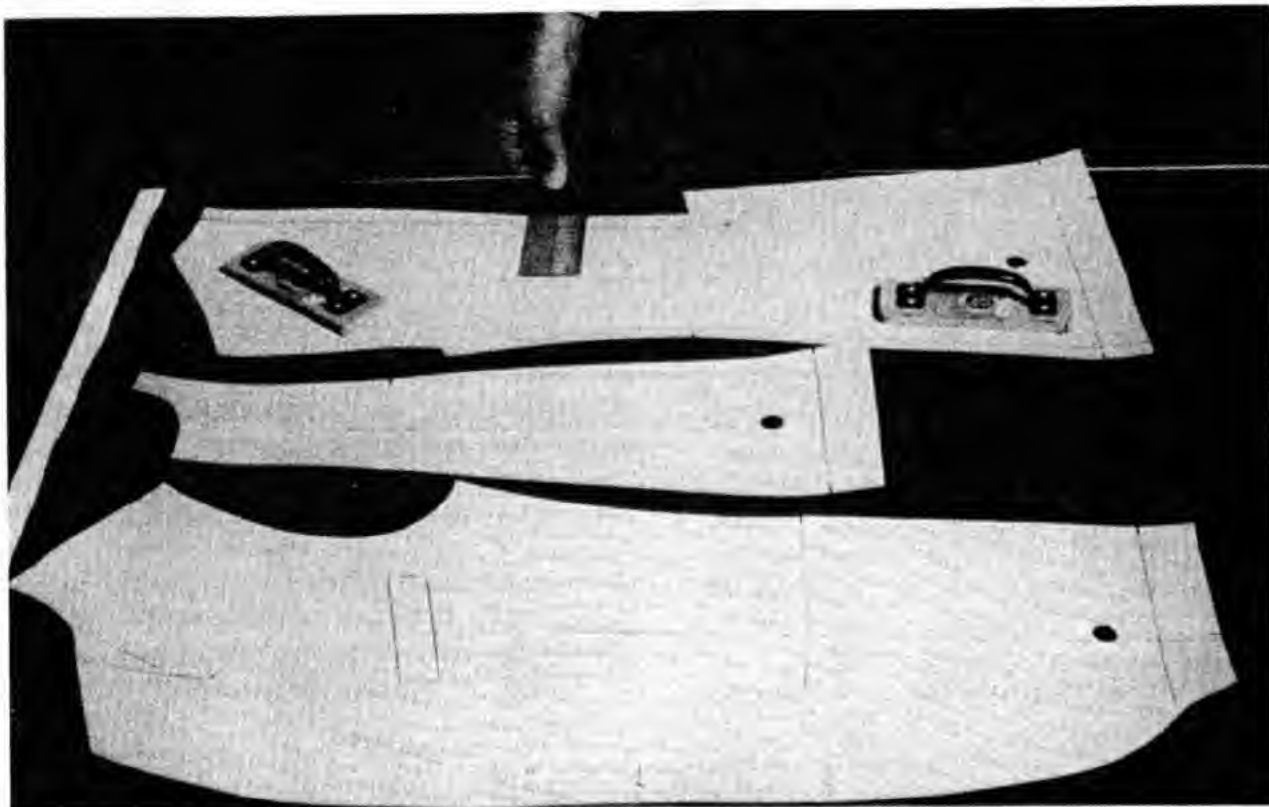
For the jacket, lay out your main pattern pieces, the front, back, side panel, facing (make sure this is the revised facing on page 14), and sleeve. The sleeve should be traced onto the fabric along with the other main pattern pieces, as a reminder of its presence, and its demands on the fabric. However, we will not cut the sleeve

until much later, when the jacket is almost completed. Until you are familiar with the construction techniques, the pockets and the collar should be cut only as you need them, following the instructions in each section.

Do the same with your trouser and vest patterns. Set to work with only the front of your vest cut, and the front and back of your trousers. Cut the facings, and pockets and waistband as you work along with the book.

Of course, cutting everything at once allows for the most economical use of your fabric, and many tailors develop this skill to a fine art. The illustration shows a professional, nap layout of a size 40, three-piece suit. It makes good business sense as well as a good challenge to plan your work as tightly as it is illustrated here. It also takes experience. For the moment we will assume that you have challenge enough in producing a well-tailored suit. The challenge of a tight layout can come later, with experience.





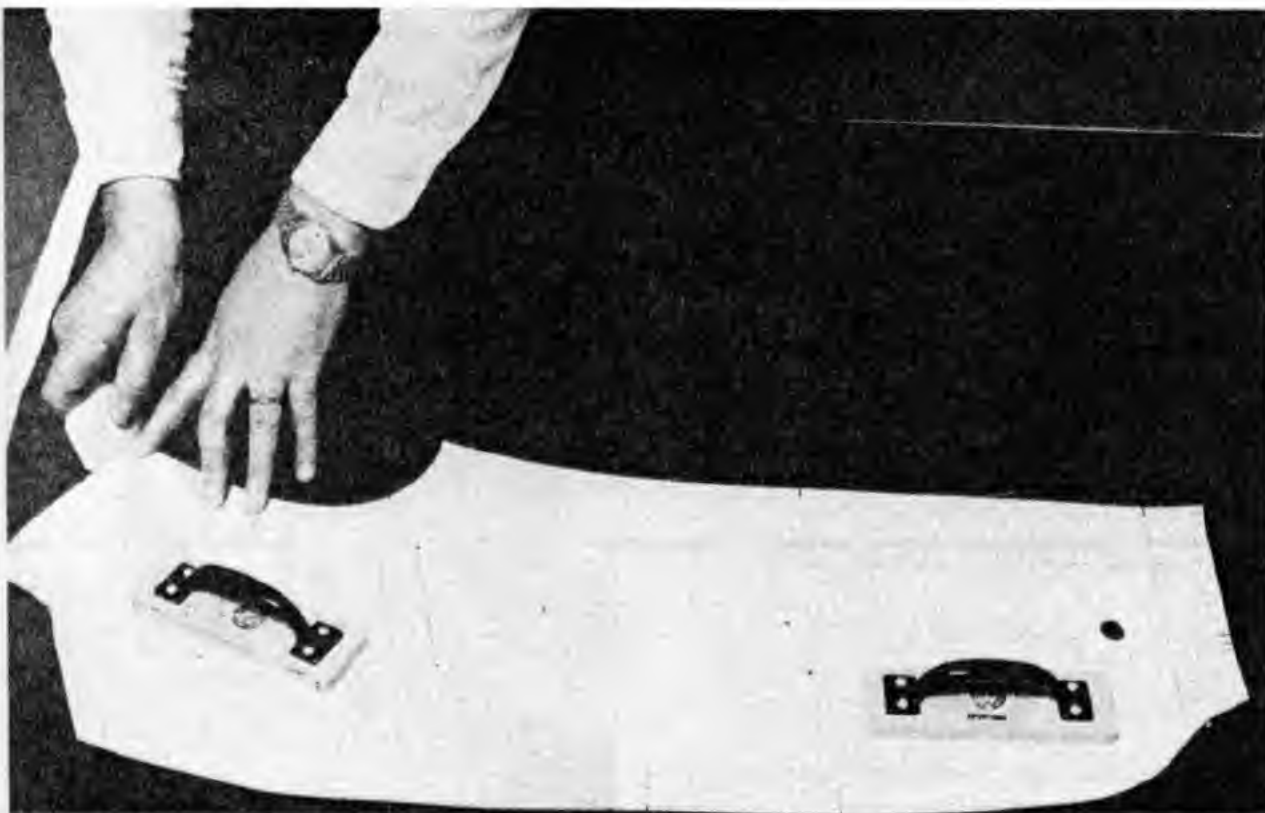
With your fabric well prepared (preshrunk, pressed, on grain and marked for nap), lay out your main pattern pieces. Use a nap layout unless you have a good reason not to (too little fabric). It is always safer to use a nap layout, especially with wool, since slight color shading

may be discernible in the sunlight, and not in your workroom. Lay your pattern pieces with great respect for the fabric grain. The grain arrows on each pattern piece should be exactly parallel with the selvage. Measure to check the accuracy of your eye.

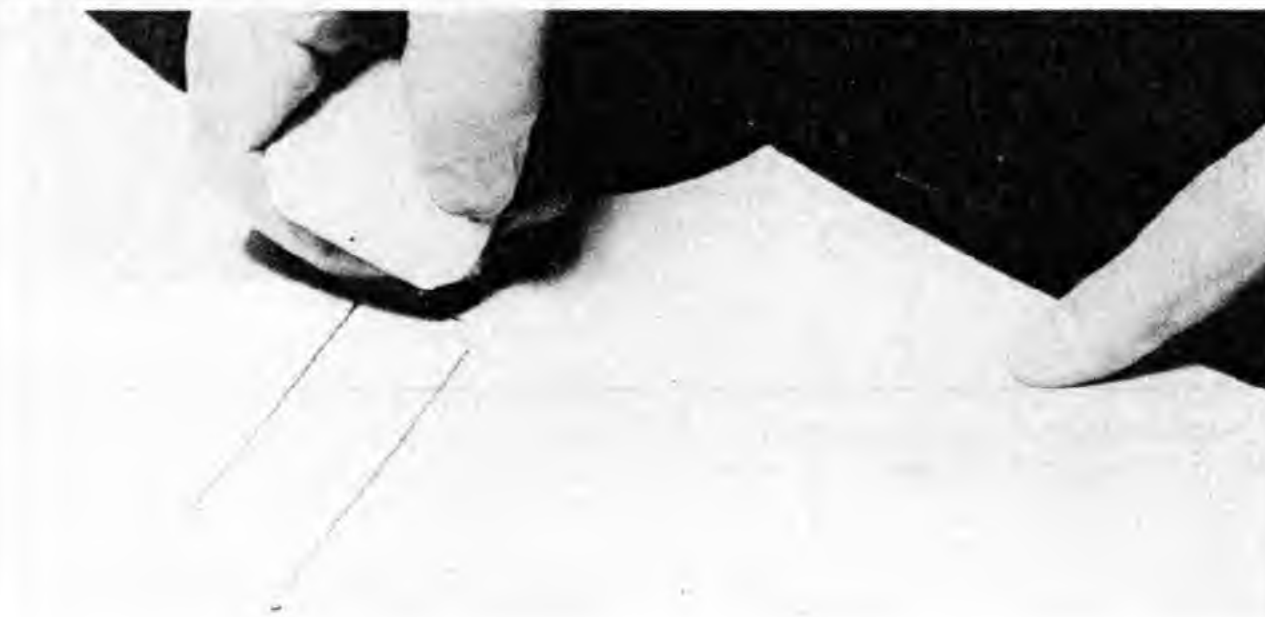
With sharpened, clay tailor's chalk, the process of tracing around each pattern piece is easily and accurately done. Sharpen the chalk, so that you can produce a thin, clean line without the necessity of pressing heavily on the chalk and the fabric. Applying pressure to the chalk instead of sharpening it, produces a thick, undertermined line, and may even disturb the lay of the fabric.

We suggest clay tailor's chalk, rather than chalk with a wax content, because with chalk you can freely mark on the right side of your fabric without ever worrying that the marks will be permanent. The clay chalklines can be brushed away easily when they are no longer needed. Pressing on top of the clay chalklines is not suggested, since this will render the marks more difficult (though not impossible) to remove.

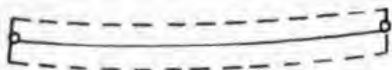




Trace around the jacket front pattern piece indicating all notches, including the waistline, the collar notch, the top and bottom of the lapel roll line, and the front armhole notch.



Mark the dart tips and the ends of the pocket placement lines, by scratching the chalk and letting the chalk dust settle through the holes in the pattern.



The pocket placement line for a double-piping pocket is the center line.



For a welt pocket, it is the bottom line.



And for a patch pocket, the pocket placement line is at the top.

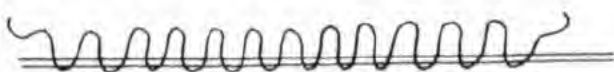
Remove the pattern and cut the fabric, indicating border notches by a snip into the seam allowance (no deeper than  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm)).

The best scissors to use for cutting double layers of fabric are bent-handle shears. The bottom blade can rest on the table as the fabric is being cut. The blade is in a position to slide along with minimal disruption of the fabric.

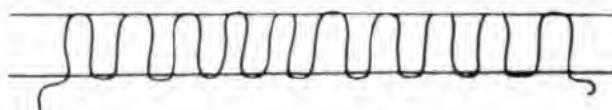
Resist the urge to pull the fabric towards you as you cut. Any such movement might ruin your careful grainline efforts.



After each pattern piece has been cut, the chalk guidelines are preserved by *tailor tacking*.



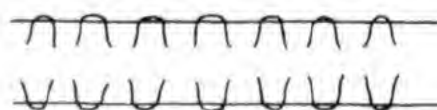
Tailor tacking is simply a running stitch through two layers of fabric, which leaves loops of extra thread on the top layer (as illustrated).



When the two layers of fabric are separated, the excess thread is shifted to the inside.



Snipping the thread down the center creates the thread markers—neat loops on the wrong side of the fabric, and hair-like protrusions on the right side.

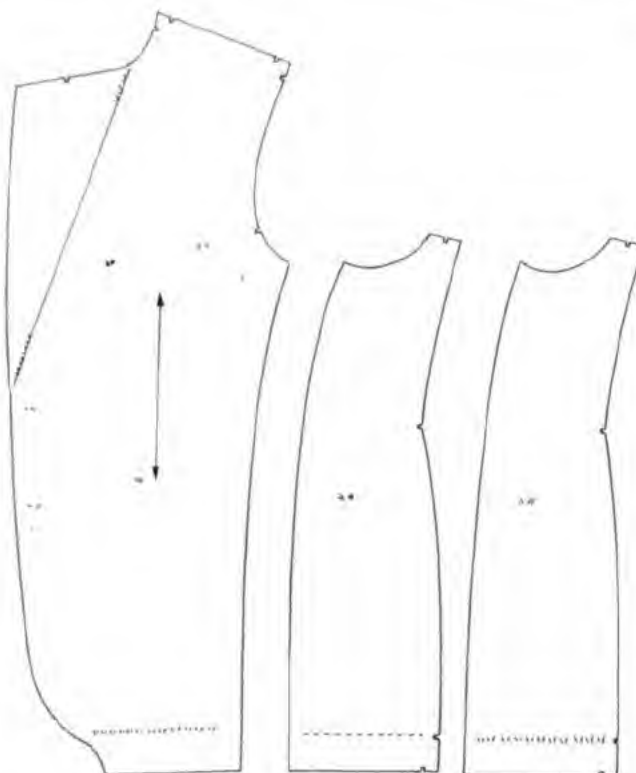


To tailor tack points or ends rather than lines, two stitches are taken on top of each other, leaving the loose thread loop on the top layer of fabric. Dart tips and the ends of each pocket are point-tacked in this way.

Chalkmark the hemline and roll line. Tailor tack the full length of the hem, and only the beginning and end of the roll line.

The procedure for cutting *pants* is essentially the same as for cutting the jacket. The grain of the fabric is vital, and all pertinent pattern information should be tailor-tacked into the fabric. The short time spent on tailor tacking now will save hours of guessing and correcting later on.

The procedure for marking the *vest front* pattern is slightly different. Because a layer of fusible material will be applied to the wrong side of the vest front, the pattern information should be chalkmarked on the right side of the fabric, rather than preserved by tailor tacking. Threads caught in the fusible would be very difficult to remove.

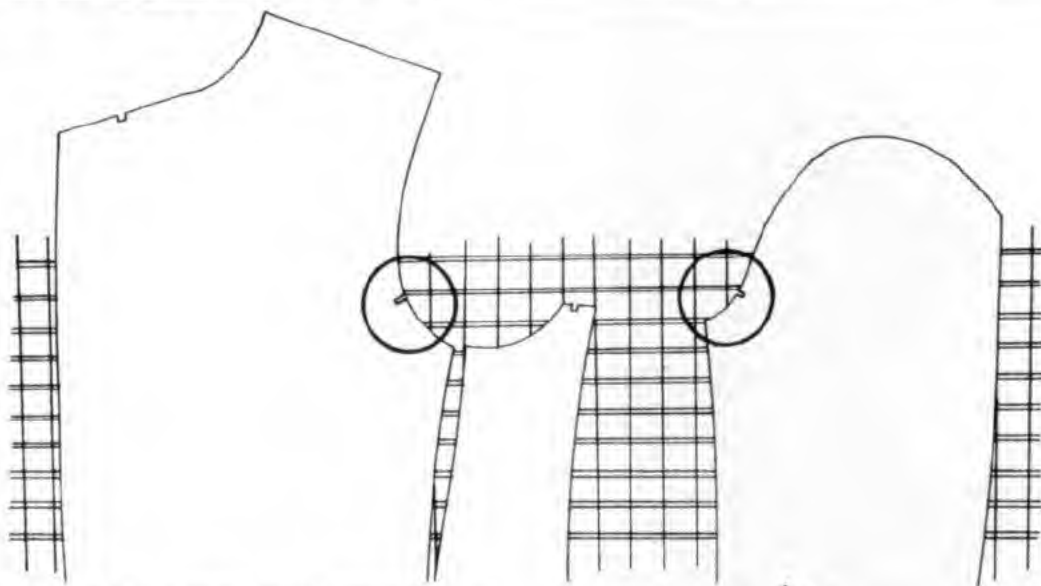




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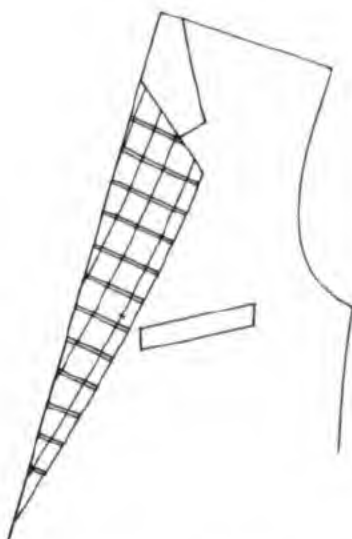
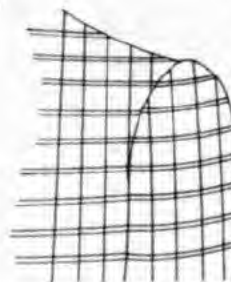
# PLAIDS OR STRIPES

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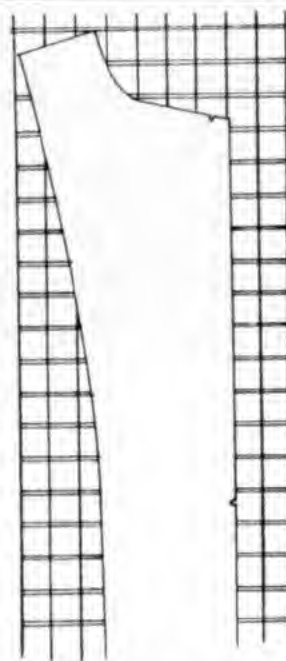


The layout for a plaid or striped fabric requires added attention.

The horizontal lines at the top of the sleeve front should match those on the body of the jacket. Place the notch on the top sleeve pattern and the front notch on the armhole at identical points on the plaid design. (See page 171.)

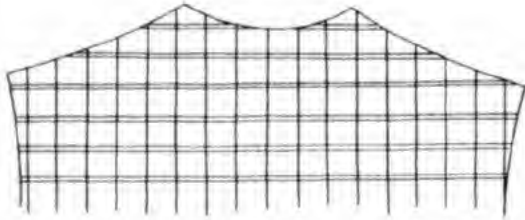


The outer edge of the lapel on the facing should be on the straight of the grain, between two prominent vertical stripes. The stripe should run the whole length of the lapel, without veering off along the way.



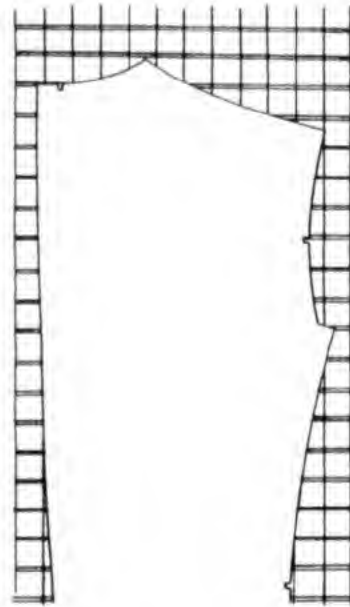
Place the revised facing pattern (page 14) so that the notch at the top of the lapel falls between two prominent vertical stripes. The facing on a plaid or striped jacket should be applied by hand (page 113) rather than by machine, for the most control in matching the lines.





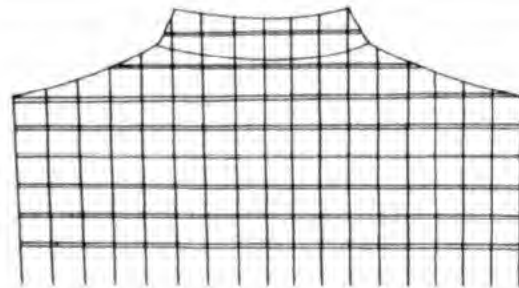
The center back seam, at the neck edge, should not interrupt the pattern of the plaid.

Place the stitchline of the center back neck edge at the very center between two vertical stripes on the plaid.



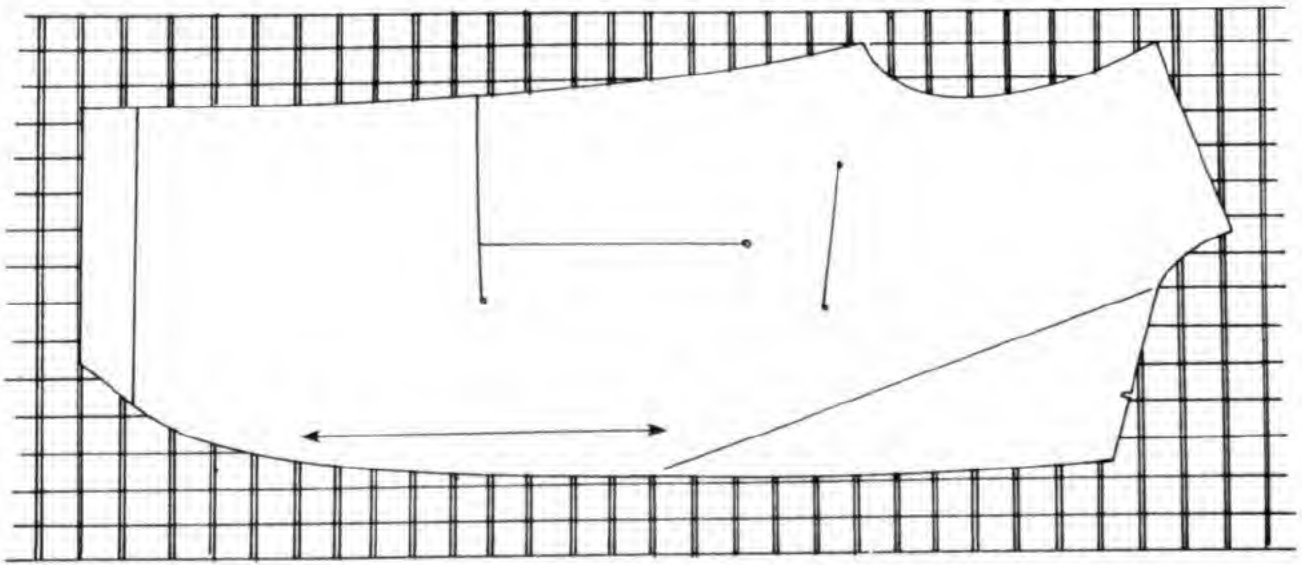
The collar, viewed from the back, should not create any interruption in the plaid design of the jacket back.

Therefore, the topcollar, which is cut after the undercollar is set, should be attached to the undercollar with an eye to continuing both the horizontal and vertical design lines present on the back of the jacket. (See page 150.)

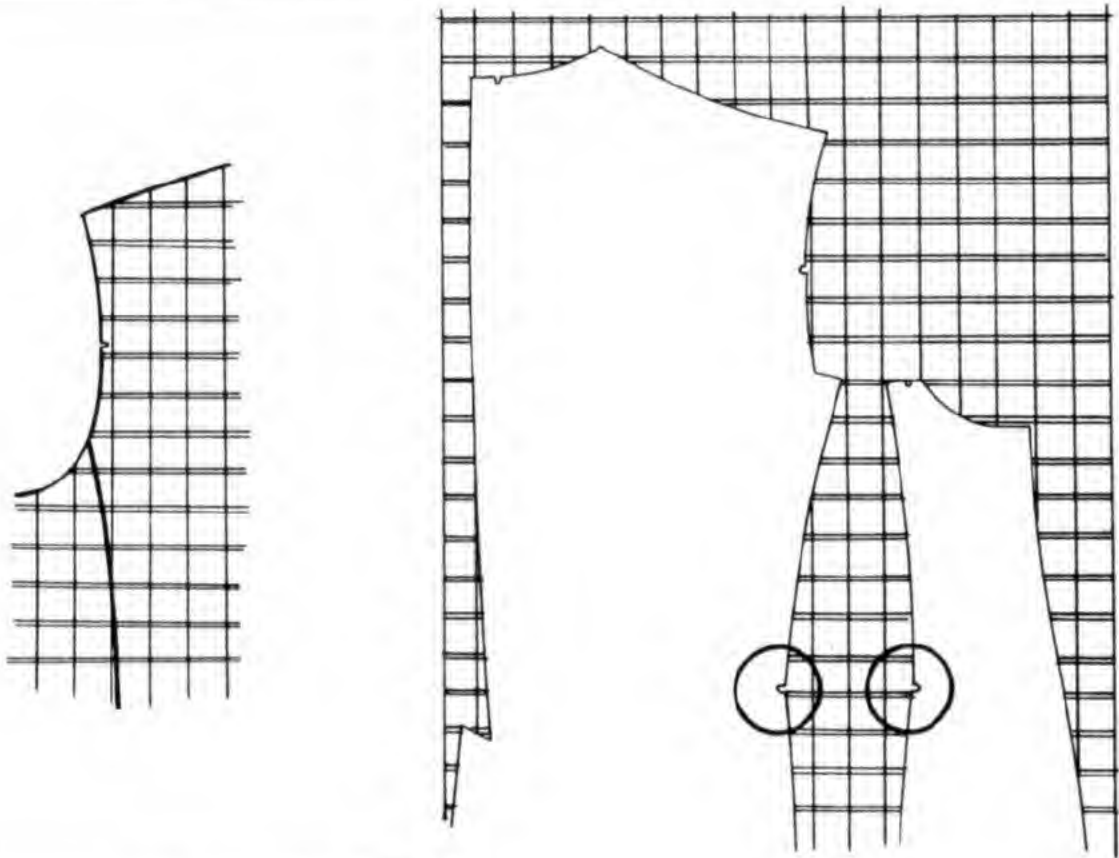


The seamline at the straight part of the jacket front, below the lapel, should not fall on a prominent vertical stripe. (This also applies to the straight part of the vest front seamline.)



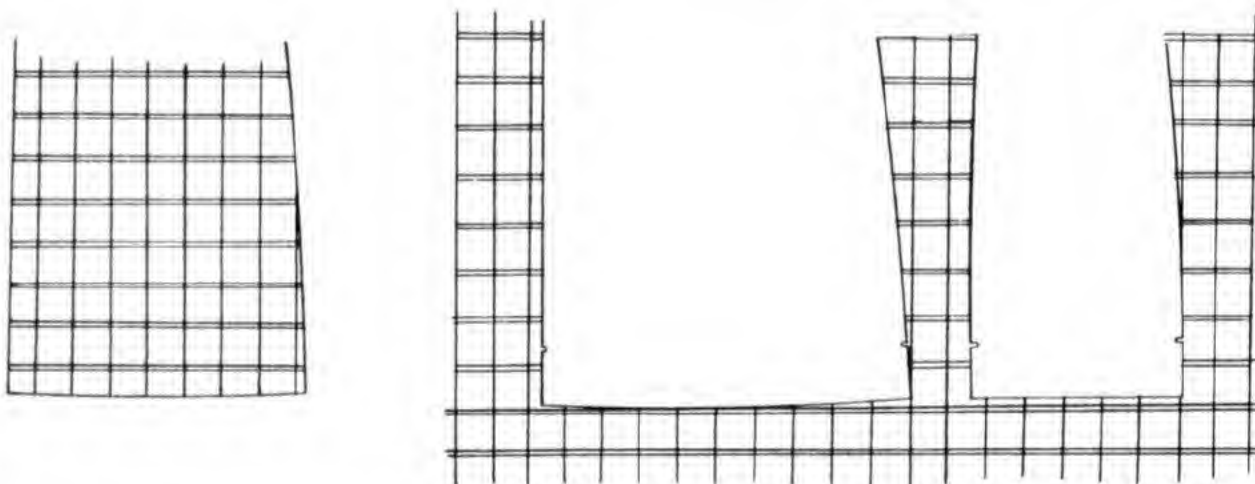


Place the straight portions of the jacket (and vest) front patterns on the plaid so that the stitchline falls between two prominent vertical stripes.



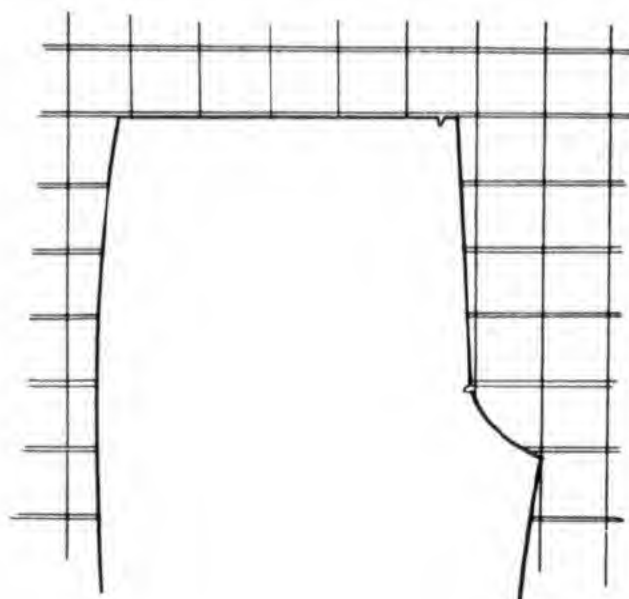
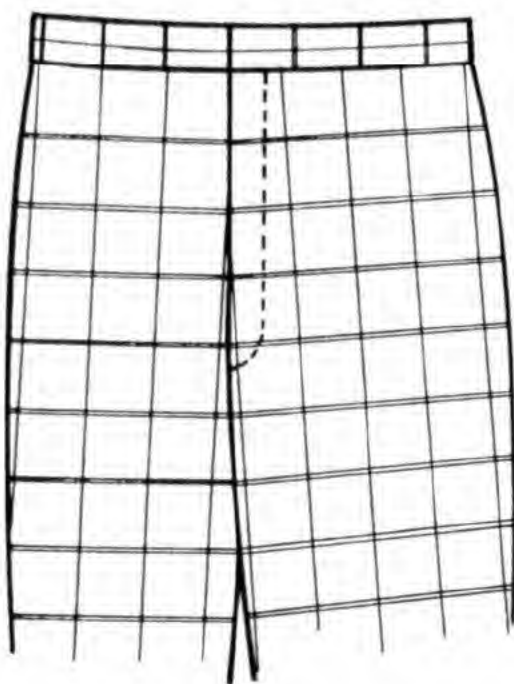
All horizontal bars in a plaid must match at the seamlines.

Place the notches of all seams, which will be joined, at identical points on the plaid design.



The hem foldline on the jacket should not fall on a prominent horizontal stripe.

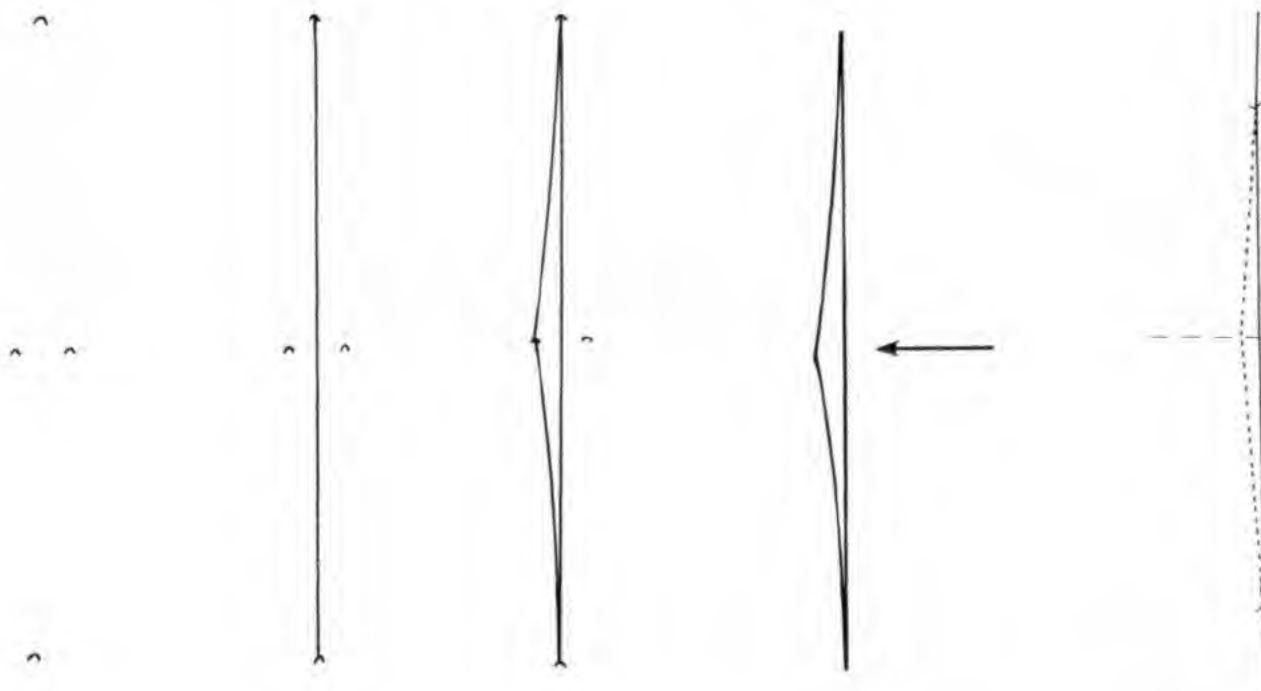
Place the hem foldline of the jacket front, back and side panel midway between two prominent horizontal stripes.



The fold at the top of the pants fly should be between two prominent vertical stripes. Place the notch at the center front waistline between two prominent vertical stripes.

The information needed for constructing pockets on a plaid or stripe fabric is discussed with the individual pocket directions.

# 6 The Jacket



## DARTS AND SEAMS

If there is a dart on the jacket, at this point in your tailoring procedure it is indicated by four tailor tacks.

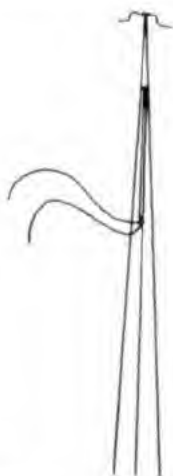
On the wrong side of the fabric, draw a chalkline from top to bottom at the center of the dart.

On one side of the dart, draw a slightly curved line from the top of the dart to waist, and from waist to bottom of the dart. Use the hip curve to taper line gradually into the dart ends. An abrupt curve at the dart ends will create puckering on the right side of the fabric which will be impossible to press out.

Remove the tailor tacks and press the dart in half, using the center chalkline as foldline.

Machine stitch the dart from top to bottom. Sewing the fabric in the direction of the nap is an added courtesy to the fabric. In velvet or pile fabrics, it is an absolute necessity.

It is better to tie the threads at the dart ends, rather than backstitching to tack. Backstitching adds unwanted bulk and stiffness into the delicately thin area of the dart tips.



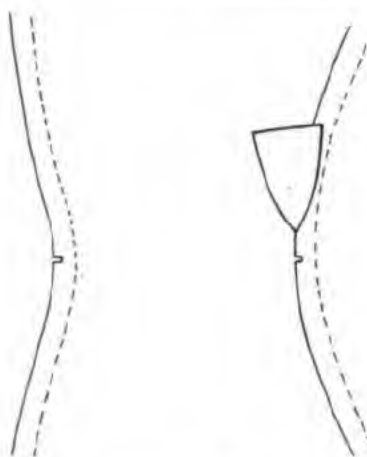
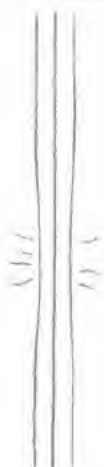
Slit the dart on the center chalkline, beginning and ending the slit  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) away from top and bottom. Press the dart open using a tailor's ham.

The fabric at the dart tip is somewhat difficult to control, since it may pull to one side rather than allowing itself to be pressed flat at the center. When this happens, it becomes obvious on the front of the jacket by a slight wavering of the dart seamline, instead of a perfectly straight seamline, at the dart tip.

Before pressing, control the fabric at the dart tip by inserting the eye end of a threaded needle as far into the dart tip as it will go. This

will hold the seamline straight as you press the dart seam allowance flat in the center. Remove the needle (by the thread, the needle is hot), and press the dart tip flat once more. On the front of the jacket, the dart line should now be perfectly straight.

A bias-cut, oval-shaped, very lightweight, nonwoven fusible can be used to reinforce the dart tip and maintain the fabric's body in this area. Use only a fusible which presents no competition in weight with the garment fabric. Try a sample on a fabric scrap. If there is any indication of the fusible from the right side of the fabric, it is too heavy. If in doubt, leave it out.



Baste and sew your side panel to the jacket front, matching notches, and press the seam open. If the jacket has significant waistline shaping, there will be some constriction in the waistline area at the seam. Stretch the seam allowance in the waistline area by steam pressing it into a curve opposite to its shape. When the seam allowance is then pressed open, the constriction will have been relieved.

Slashing the seam allowance at the waist to relieve this tightness weakens the garment unnecessarily in this area, and it's always wise to keep seam allowances in tact for possible future alterations.

Gently press the jacket front from the wrong side. You are now ready for the construction of the jacket pockets.

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# THE JACKET POCKETS

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The most popular types of jacket pockets are:

- Welt Pocket
- Double-Piping Pocket
- Double-Piping Pocket with Flap
- Patch Pocket

The construction of these pockets is presented here in great detail. Therefore, you need not limit yourself to the style of the pocket given on your commercial pattern. Feel free to substitute a double-piping pocket for a patch pocket, or to add a flap if you wish. The only guidelines

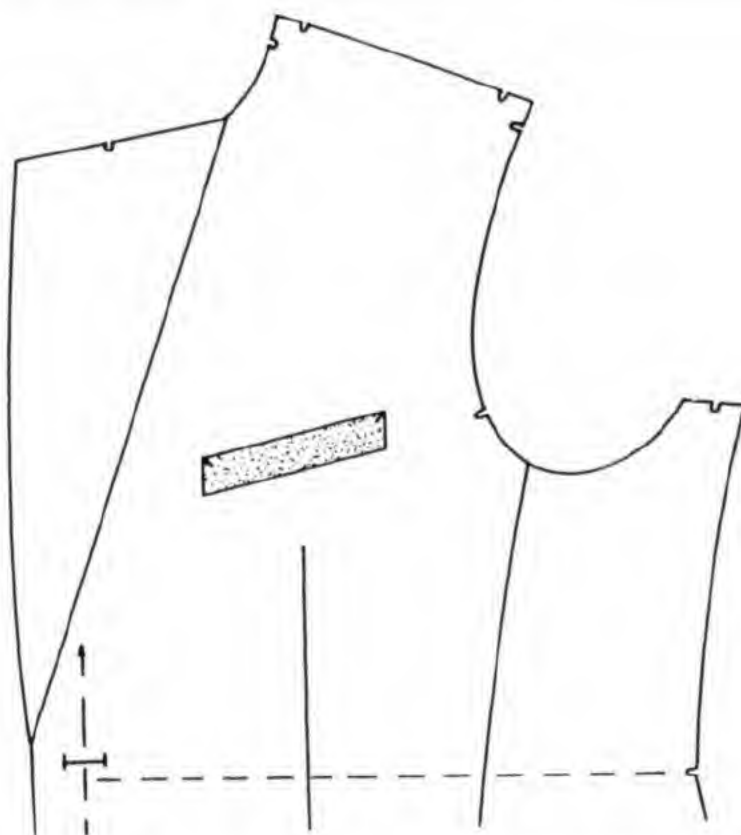
seem to be that patch pockets are usually restricted to casual wear, and that the welt pocket on men's jackets is generally used only as a breast pocket, and not at hip level.

The perfection of the pocket construction says much about the skill of the tailor. Because of the prominent position of the pockets on the front of the jacket, any distortion in the pocket line will call attention to itself, and detract from the overall beauty of the jacket. We suggest that you practice the pocket construction on a fabric scrap before constructing them in your jacket fabric.

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## THE WELT POCKET

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The breast welt pocket is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (11.4 cm) long and about 1" (2.5 cm) wide, placed on the left side of the jacket at approximately the level of the front sleeve notch. The placement line is usually on a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) slant, lower right to upper left when the jacket is worn.

Chalkmark the placement line on the jacket front. If you have adjusted your pattern at the front armhole, check to see that the pocket placement line is at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) away from the armhole stitchline.

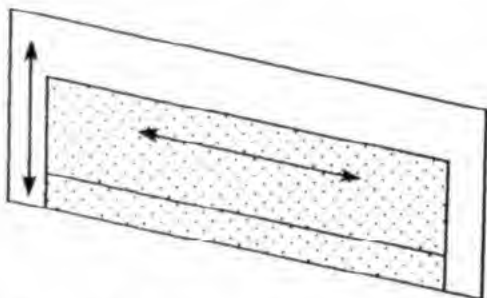




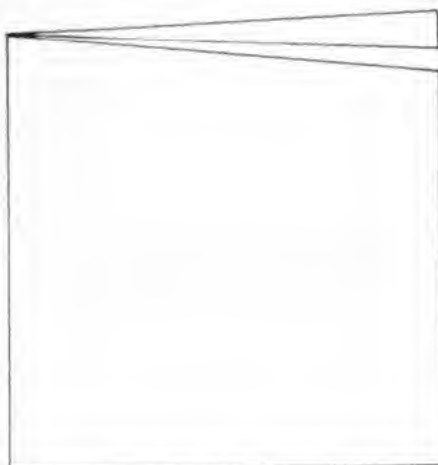
Cut a piece of woven fusible, on the cross-grain,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (11.4 cm) by  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " (3.5 cm). Draw a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) margin along the bottom edge on the unglued side. This line will eventually be the stitchline for attaching the welt to the jacket.



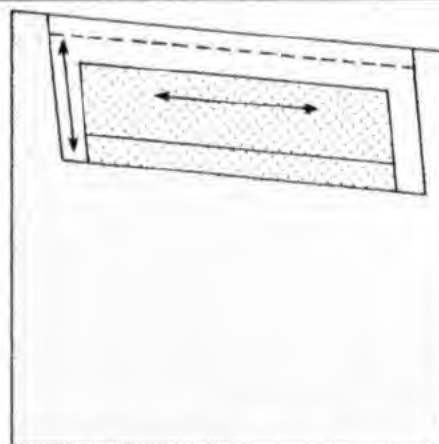
Trim away  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) diagonals from the upper right and lower left of the rectangle. This will create the slant for the welt.



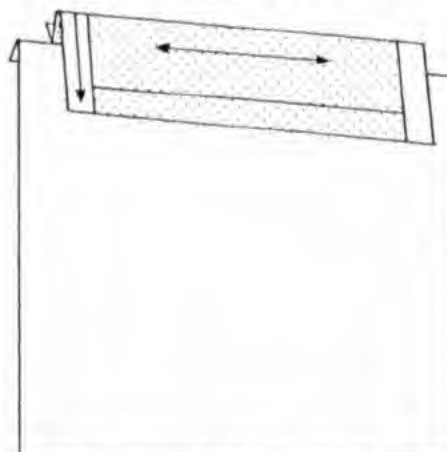
Press the fusible to the wrong side of a piece of the garment fabric, leaving  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) fabric at each side and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) at the top. It is important that the side of the fusible be parallel with the straight grain of the garment fabric, and that the nap be down.



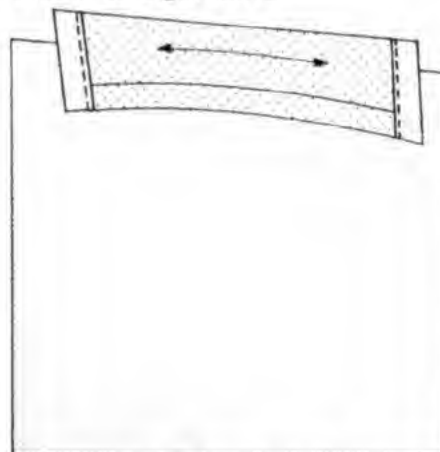
Cut two pieces of pocketing, 6" (15.2 cm) by 6" (15.2 cm) on the straight grain, and cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) diagonal off the top of each piece.



Use a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam to sew the top edge of the garment fabric to the top of the pocketing, and press the seam open.

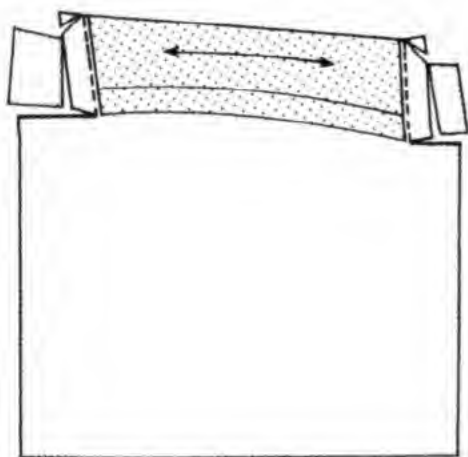


Fold the garment fabric, using the top edge of the fusible as a guideline.

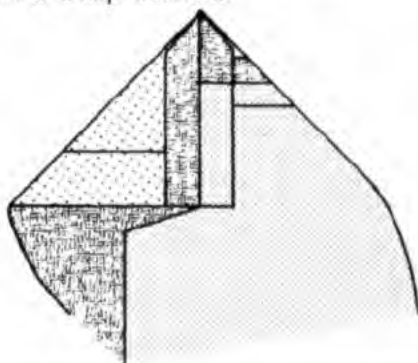


At either end of the fusible, baste the welt to the pocketing, easing the welt slightly towards the center. This easing creates a slight bulge in the welt, which will ensure that the pocketing edges will be hidden when the welt is turned to the right side.

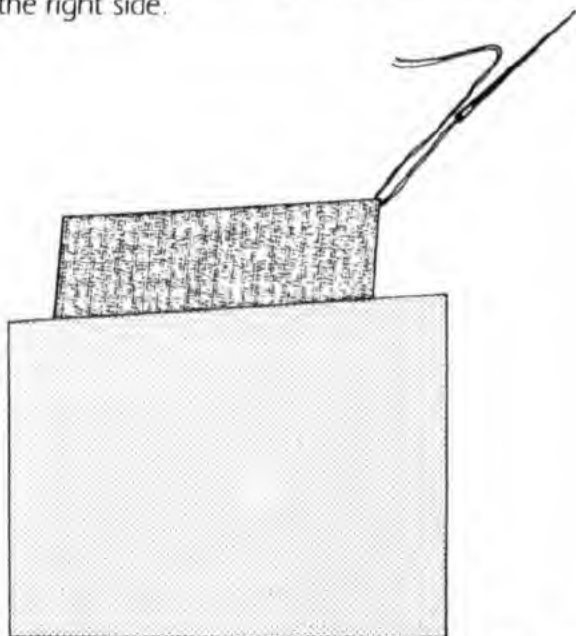
Machine-stitch just beyond the edge of the fusible. Tack the top, but not the bottom of each stitchline.



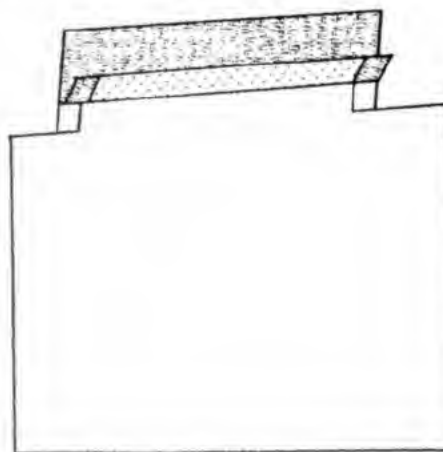
Slash the pocket to the bottom of the stitchlines. Trim the seam allowances to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) and trim the top corners.



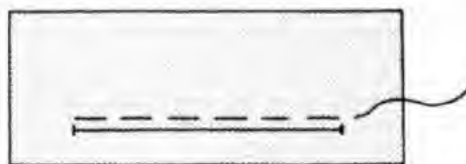
Press the seams open and turn the welt to the right side.



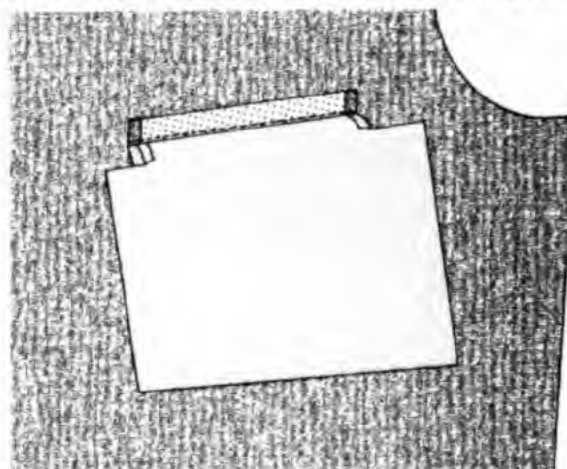
To assist in turning the corners, take one stitch and gently pull both ends of the thread. This is a safer procedure than poking the corners from the inside with the point of the scissors. Press the welt on the right side.



Carefully open the welt seam just enough to expose the stitchline which is drawn on the fusible.

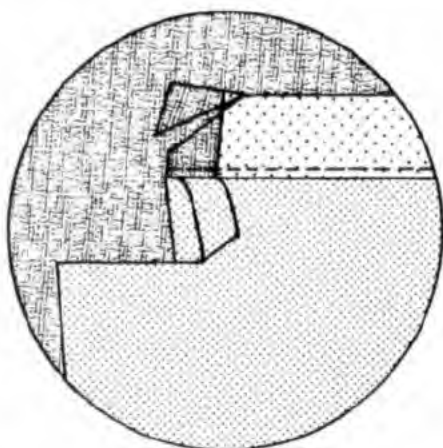


Cut a piece of pocketing 2" (5 cm) by 6" (15.2 cm) on the straight grain, and place it on the wrong side of the jacket. The lower edge of the pocketing should fall about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the welt placement line which is drawn on the jacket front. Baste or pin the pocketing in place. This piece of pocketing is called a *reinforcement* since its purpose is to strengthen the fabric in the area in which we will be working.

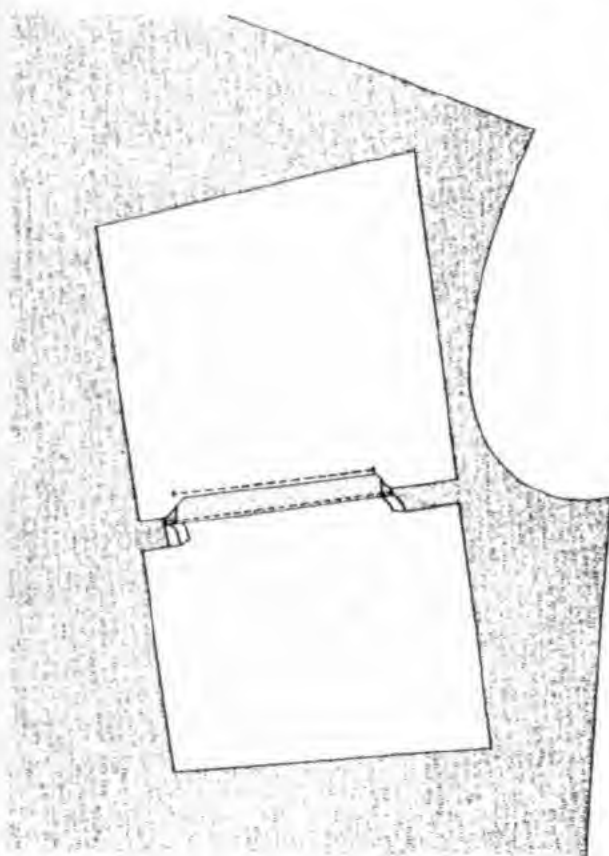


Place the welt face down on the jacket front, matching the stitchline which is drawn on the fusible with the placement line drawn on the jacket. Don't be concerned if you notice that the welt is upside down at this point; it should be.

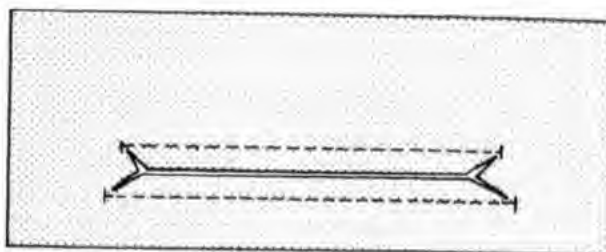
Baste, and then machine stitch the welt to the jacket, tacking welt at either end.



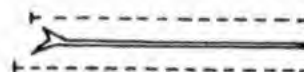
Trim corners of the welt seam allowance.



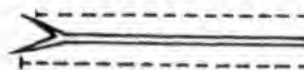
Insert the second piece of pocketing under the welt seam allowance and stitch on the pocketing, very close to the welt seam allowance. This stitchline should be about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) shorter than the welt stitchline at either end. Tack well at either end.



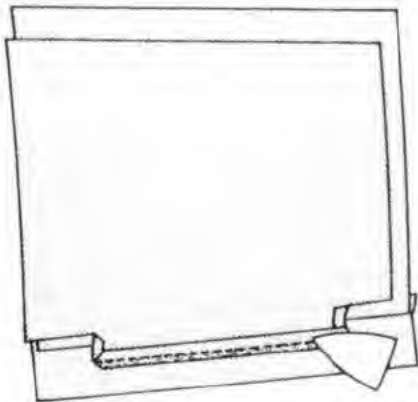
From the wrong side of the jacket the two stitchlines will be clearly visible on the reinforcement. Begin at the center and slash through the reinforcement and the jacket fabric, directly between the two stitchlines. While you are cutting, hold the welt seam allowance and the pocketing safely out of the way. Cut prongs about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) long at each end. Slash very close to the last stitch on each line, *but* not close enough to cut the threads. Cutting the prongs correctly is a simple, but essential step in the construction of a perfect pocket.



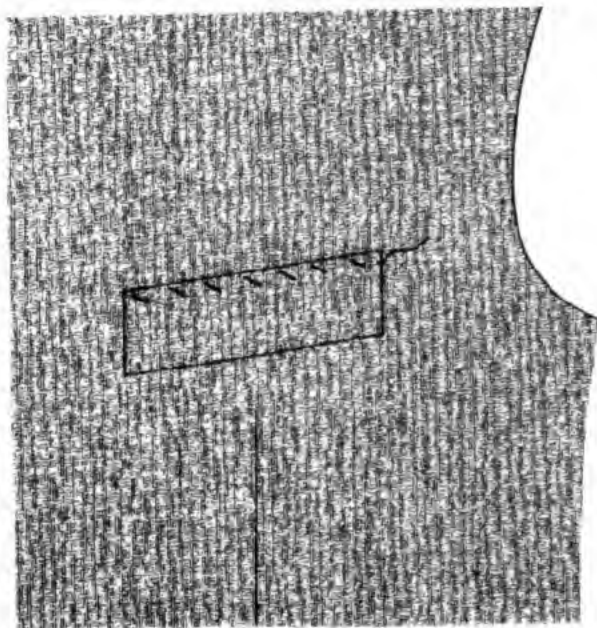
If the prongs, especially at the bottom, are not snipped directly to the last stitch, your pocket corners will pucker.



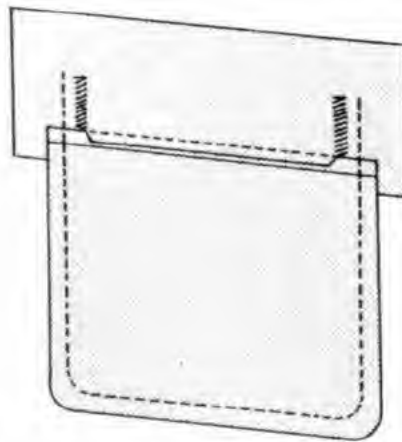
If, however, the cut overshoots the last stitch, you will have a hole on the front of your jacket at the ends of the pocket. Avoid any puckers and holes by simply giving this step your full attention.



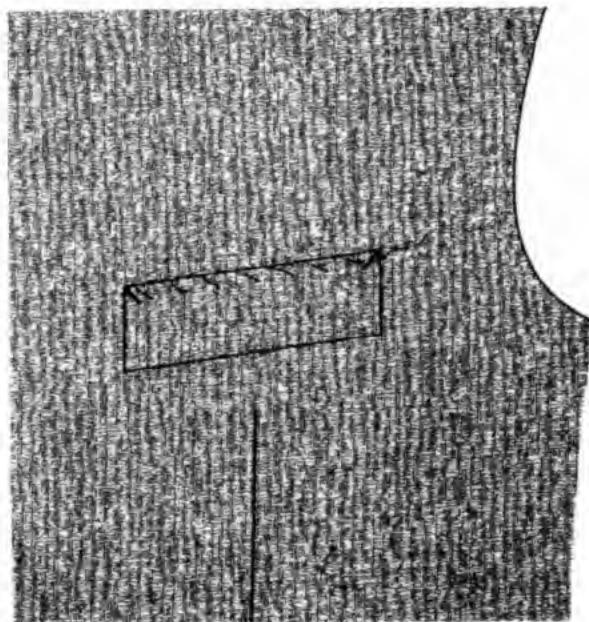
Reach through the opening and pull the pocketing to the wrong side. Press open the seam that attaches the welt to the jacket.



On the front of the jacket, the welt should now be sitting upright. Baste the pocket closed.



The sides of the welt are attached to the jacket by a diagonal handstitch from the wrong side. The stitches should not be visible on the outside. Machine-stitch the pocketing pieces together, and trim the seam allowance. Do not trim the reinforcement piece. It will be used later for attachment to the canvas.



You may wish to add a decorative bartack at either end of the top of the welt. If you wax the buttonhole twist thread and press it between two pieces of paper, the wax will melt into the thread and give it a better body. Take one stitch at either end of the welt, and anchor the stitch on the inside. The welt pocket is complete.



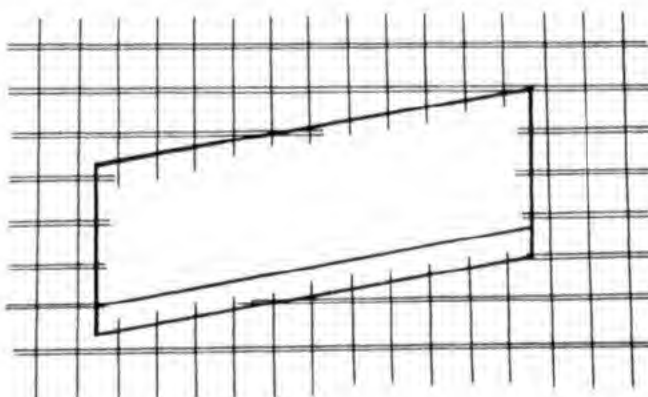
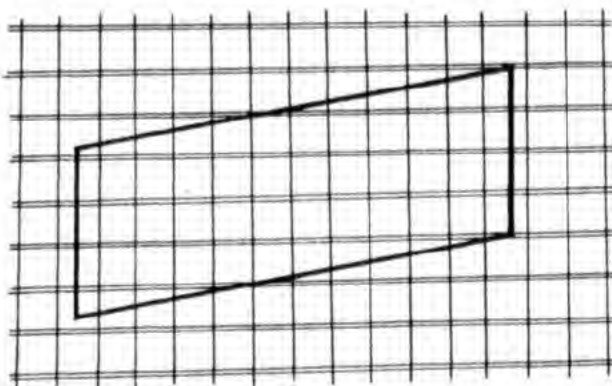
## WELT POCKET (PLAIDS/STRIPES)

Because there are no darts or seams in the area of the breast welt pocket, the plaid or stripe should be able to run uninterrupted from the jacket, through the welt, both vertically and horizontally.

The best way to guarantee an accurate match of fabric is to draw the plaid design on the fusible, during the construction of the welt (page 68).

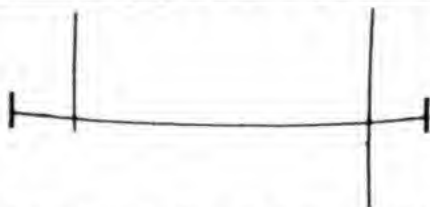
Place the trimmed fusible, glue side up, on the jacket front, with the welt stitchline at the pocket placement line. Draw the plaid design lines on the edges of the fusible.

Place the marked fusible, glue side down, on the wrong side of a piece of garment fabric, matching the plaid. Be sure to match the plaid at the sides of the welt, as well as at top and bottom.



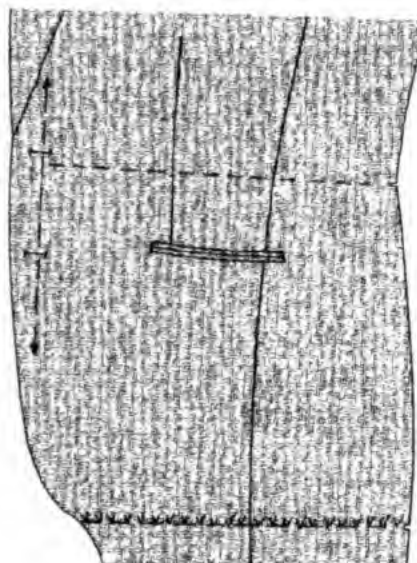
Press the fusible in place on the garment fabric, and continue construction of the welt pocket as previously discussed.

## THE DOUBLE-PIPING POCKET



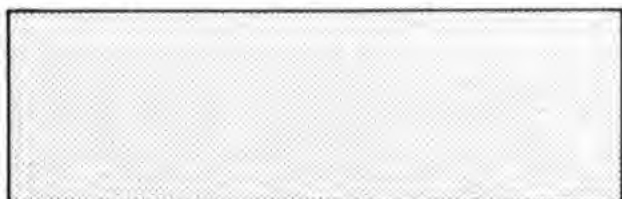
The double-piping pocket on a man's jacket is approximately 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" (14.6 cm) to 6" (15.2 cm) long. The visible piping is 1/4" (6 mm) at top and bottom.

Draw the pocket placement line on the jacket front using the hip curve. A slight curve, less than 1/8" (3 mm) deep at center, will be almost imperceptible in the finished pocket, but will help prevent the pocket from gaping open when not in use. Remove the tailor tacks at either end of the pocket placement line and chalkmark the ends.

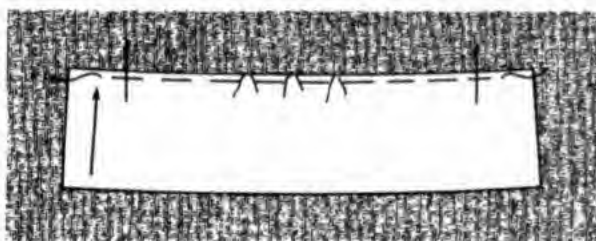




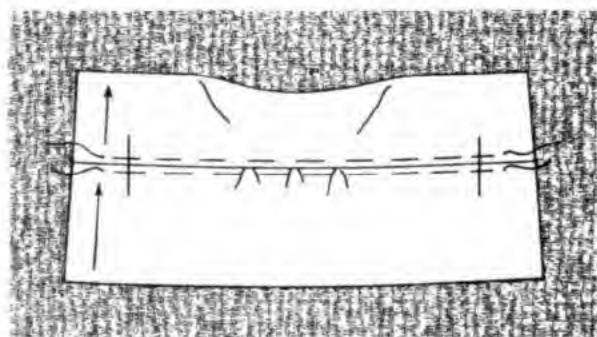
For each pocket cut two pieces of garment fabric to be used as piping; one 8" (20.3 cm) by 1 1/2" (3.8 cm), the other 8" (20.3 cm) by 2" (5 cm), straight grain, nap down.



Cut a piece of pocketing to be used as reinforcement, 8" by 2 1/2" (20.3 by 6.4 cm), straight grain. On the wrong side of the fabric, center the reinforcement along the pocket placement line. Baste or pin in place.



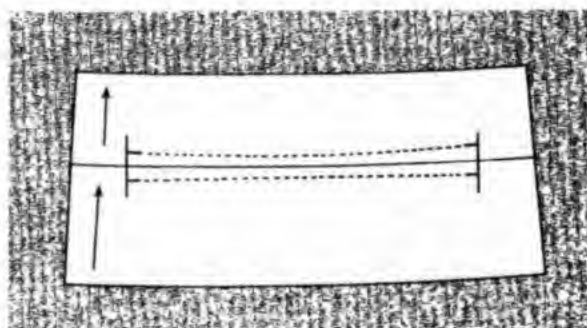
Place the wider piece of piping face down on the jacket front, nap up. The top edge of the piping should be flush with the placement line. Baste very close to the edge, catching the piping, the jacket, and the reinforcement. Because the placement line is on a slight curve, some rippling will appear at the center of the piping. Chalkmark on the piping, indicating either end of the pocket placement line.



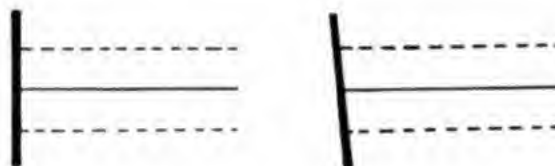
Place the second piece of piping face down on the jacket front, nap up, the edges of both pieces of piping touching. Baste very close to the edge.

Chalkmark on the top piping, indicating either end of the pocket placement line.

Steam press the piping on a flat surface to eliminate the rippling in the piping.

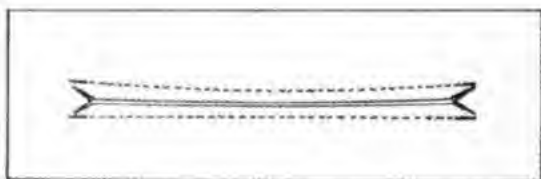


Machine-stitch the piping to the jacket 1/4" (6 mm) above and below the placement line. These stitchlines should not be exactly parallel. The center of each stitchline should be slightly closer to the placement line than the ends are. Refer to the illustration as your guide for what we mean by "slightly." This contour of the line will not be visible in the finished pocket, and will help prevent the pocket from gaping open when not in use.



It is very important that the ends of the two stitchlines be directly aligned. If they are not, the sides of the finished pocket will slant rather than stand straight, and the whole effect will be unprofessional.



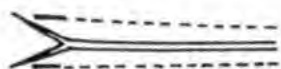


Working on the wrong side of the jacket, begin at the center and slash through the reinforcement and the garment fabric. Be careful to hold back the piping so that it is not snipped in the process.

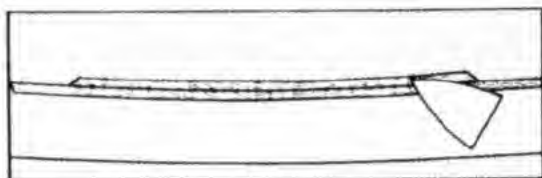
Cut  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) prongs at either end of the slash, snipping as close as possible to the last stitch in either line. *It is very important to slash correctly here.*



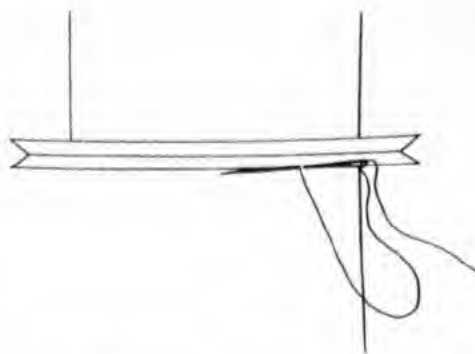
If the prong is not snipped up to the last stitch, there will be puckering on the right side of the jacket at either end of the pocket.



If, on the other hand, the slash overshoots the last stitch, you will have a hole on the front of your jacket at the ends of the pocket. Avoid the puckers and the hole by simply giving this step your full attention.

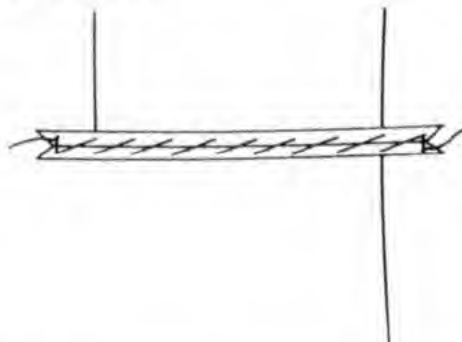


Pull the piping to the wrong side and press the seams open.

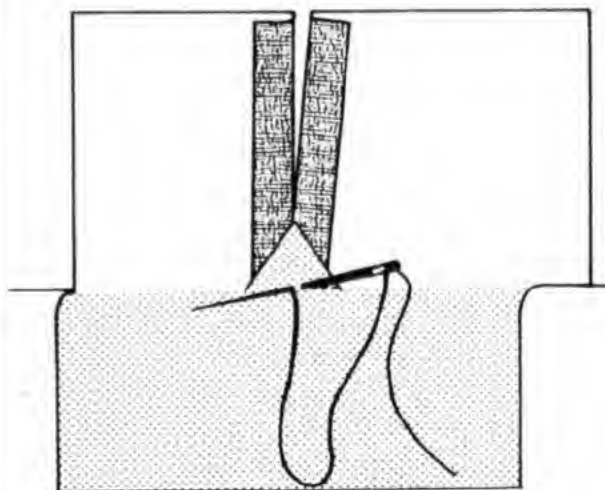


Using the seam allowance as a guide, and ignoring the prongs for the moment, backstitch by hand in the piping seam, using silk finishing thread. The piping must be kept even on top and bottom, and the stitches should not be seen.

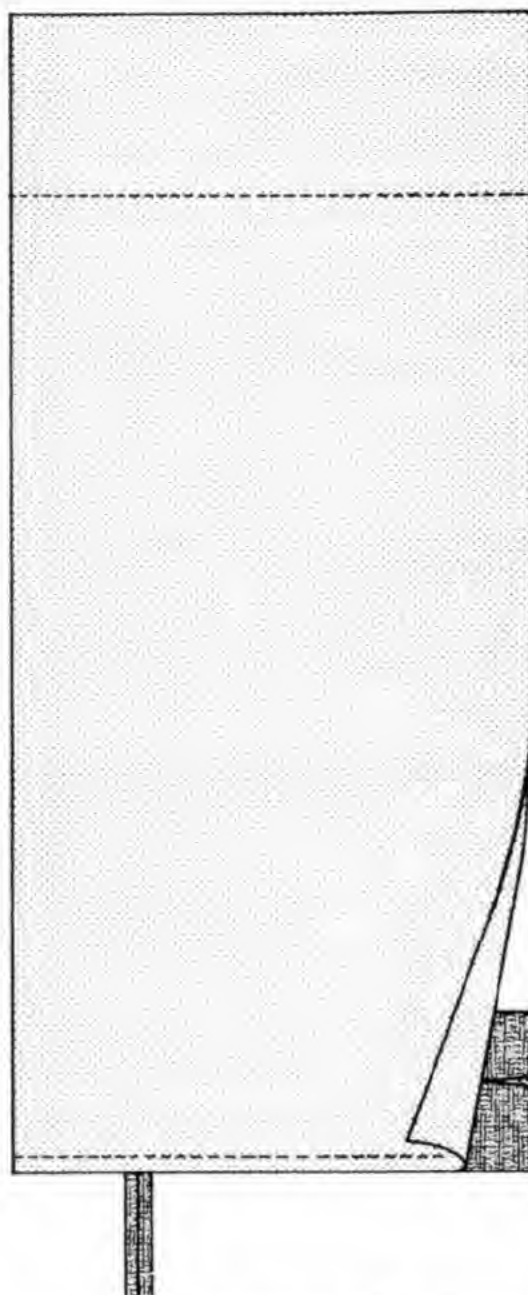
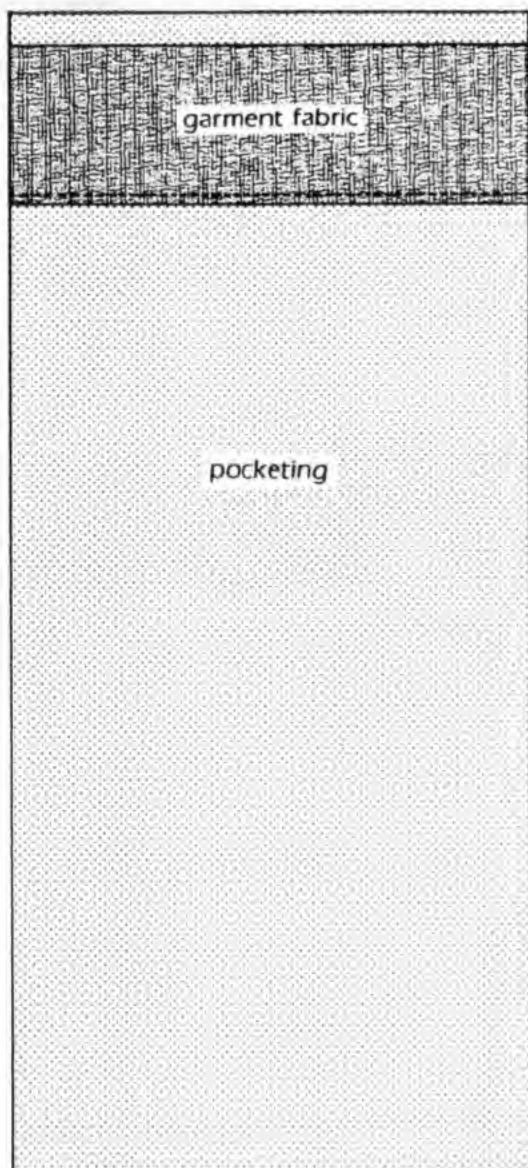
The pocket is now steam pressed on the right side using a ham and covering the fabric with a presscloth.



Whip-stitch the piping closed so that it will not shift while we attend to the prongs.



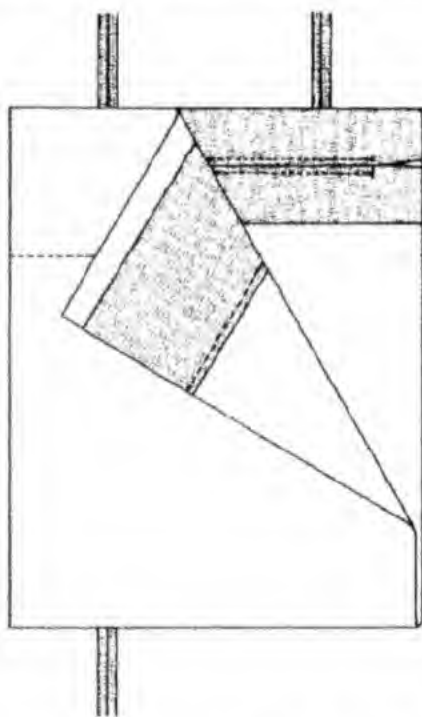
Push the prong to the wrong side and hold it so that the end of the pocket is a straight line, not a slanted one. Backstitch the prong to the piping by hand for complete control.



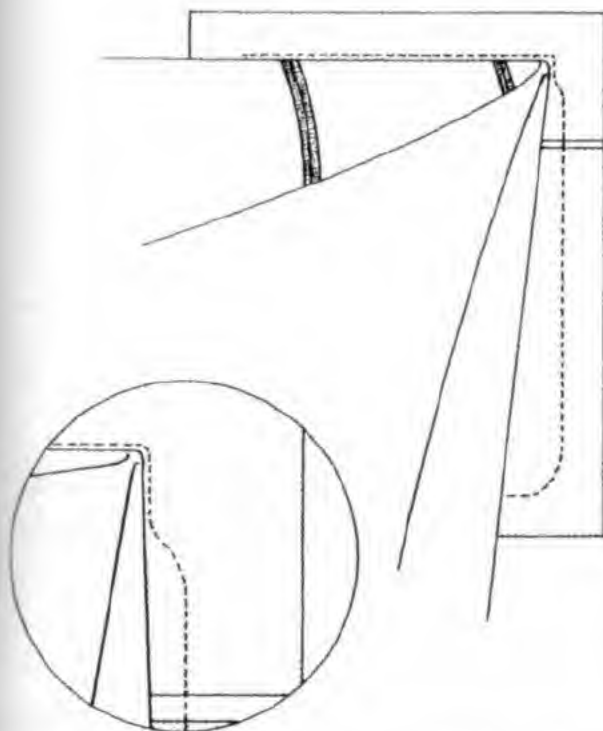
Cut a piece of pocketing, straight grain, 8" (20.3 cm) wide and 2" (5 cm) longer than twice the depth of the pocket. The pocket depth varies with the length of the jacket, but the pocketing should extend no lower than about 1" (2.5 cm) above the top of the finished jacket hem.

Cut a piece of garment fabric to be used as facing, straight grain, nap down, 2" (5 cm) by 8" (20.3 cm). Topstitch a folded edge of the facing to the top of the pocketing, leaving about 1/2" (1.3 cm) pocketing above the facing.

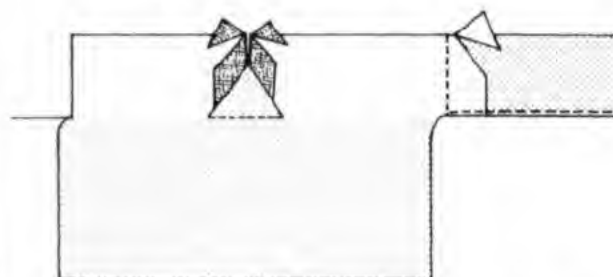
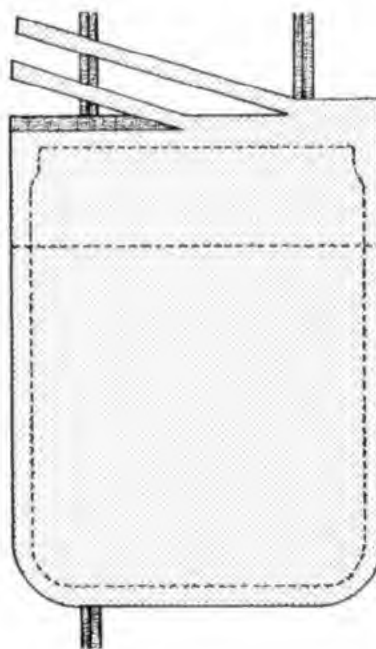
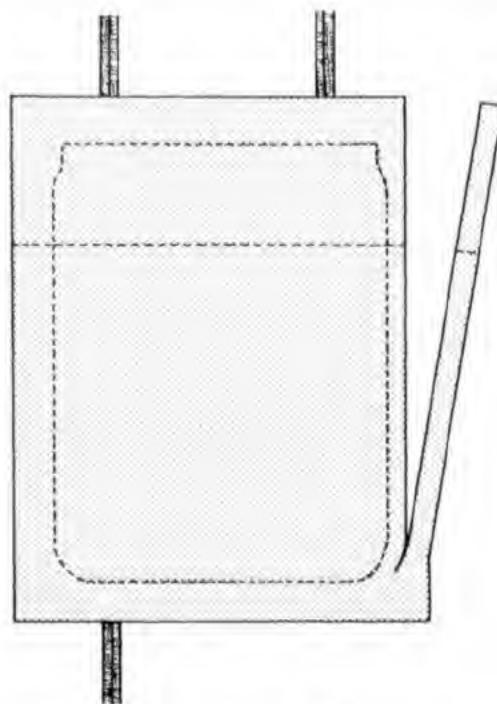
With the facing placed on the wrong side of the jacket, sew the bottom edge of the pocketing to the edge of the bottom piping. Use a 1/4" (6 mm) seam.



Pull the pocketing down and thumbnail press the seam. Match the top edges of the pocketing and the top piping.



Machine-stitch on the reinforcement as close as possible to the garment fabric. Stitch the length of the pocket opening, pivot to catch the prong area, and continue out and around the pocketing.

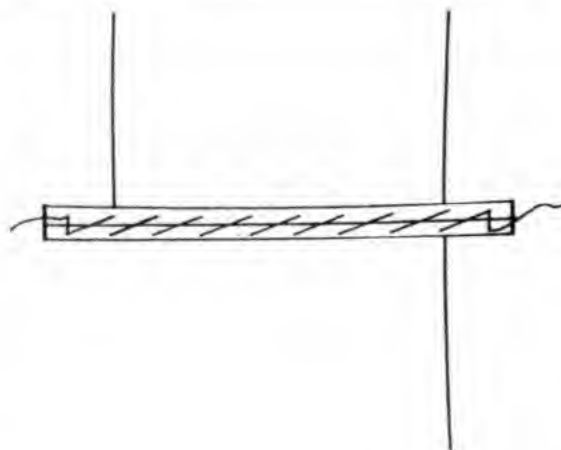


Trim the seam allowance, but not the reinforcement. Layer the fabric above the top stitchline, and snip away the excess fabric in the seam allowances to reduce the bulk.

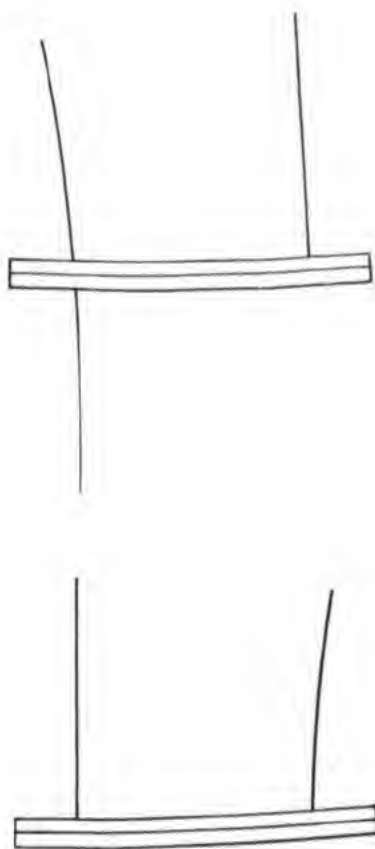
If you wish, bartack one stitch at either end of the pocket, using silk buttonhole twist. If you wax the buttonhole twist and press it between two pieces of paper, the wax will melt into the twist and give it a better body.

The pocket remains basted closed until the jacket is ready to be worn.

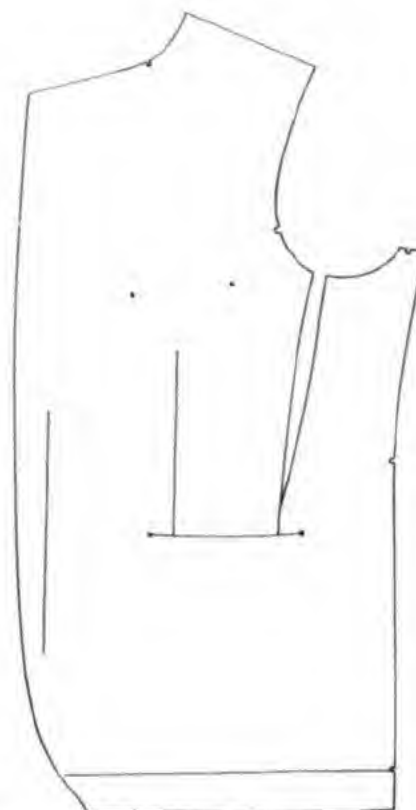
Steam press the finished pocket on the right side of the fabric, using a ham and a presscloth.



## DOUBLE-PIPING POCKET (PLAIDS/STRIPES)

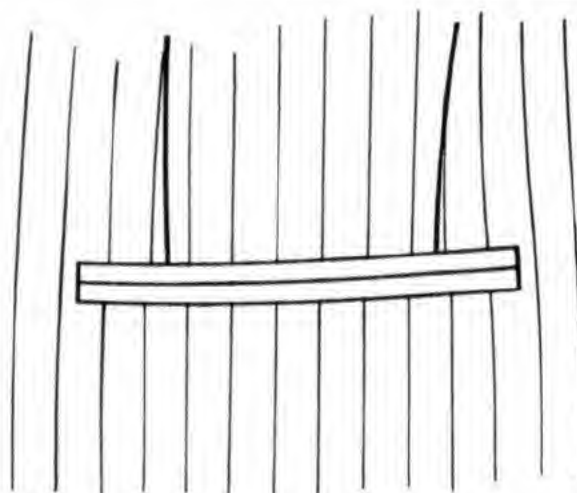


In almost all instances, two seams cut into the top of a hip-level, double-piping pocket—the front dart and the side panel seams. Depending on the pattern, either one seam or no seam will continue below the pocket.



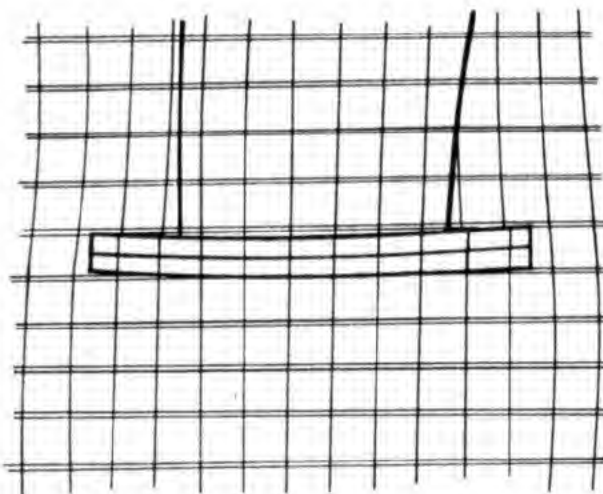
The best pattern to use for a plaid or striped fabric is one which eliminates the seam below the pocket by using a dart instead of a separate side panel. The plaid below the pocket is then undisturbed by seamlines. Above the pocket, you can't avoid seams if proper shaping is to be achieved.

In a striped fabric, cut the piping on the crossgrain and place it on the jacket so that the visible piping falls between the stripes, in the solid area of the fabric. Cutting the piping in this way avoids the question of matching a stripe on the piping with a stripe on the jacket.



On a plaid fabric, the vertical matching cannot be avoided. You can, however, cut the piping to eliminate any horizontal lines on the finished pocket.

Cut the piping on the straight grain, and match the plaid lines at the center of the pocket. The plaid on the jacket at the end of the pocket will have been slightly distorted by the darts. Simply match the piping at the center, and ignore the slight mismatch at the ends of the pocket. Even the most expensive custom-tailored plaid jackets are not matched at the end of the pocket.

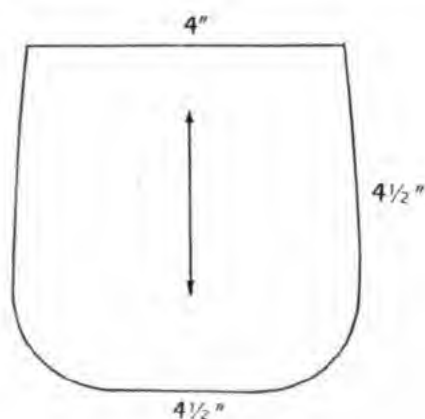


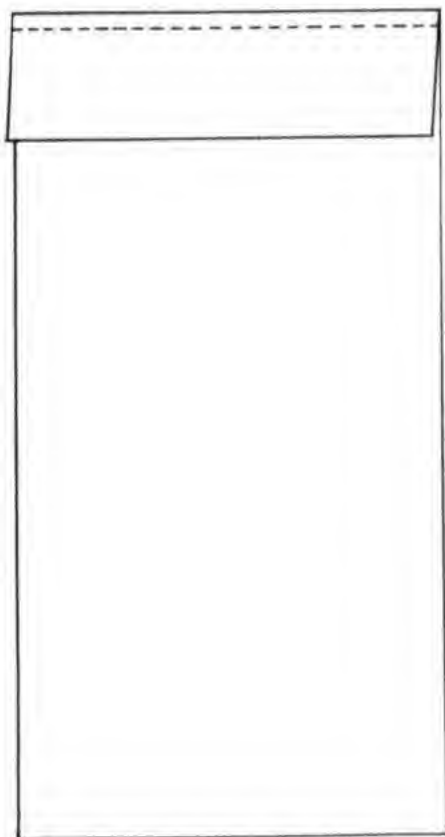
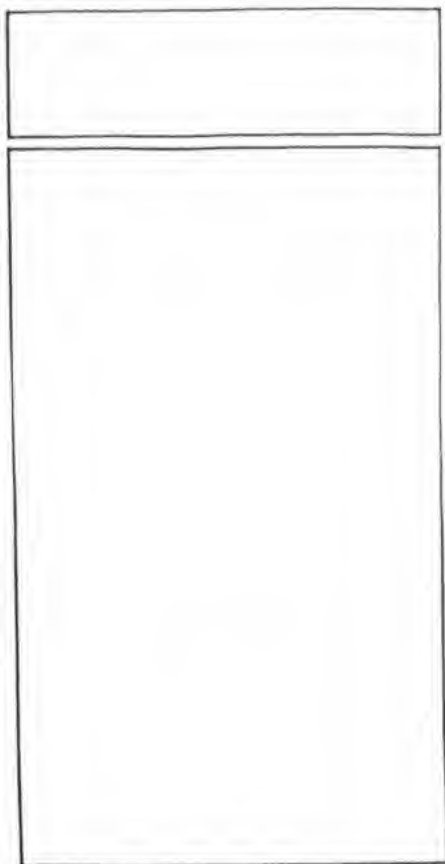
We do not suggest cutting the piping on the bias. This would avoid the matching problem by introducing a completely different line, but it would also leave us with bias, stretchable piping which would cause the pocket to gape open.

## THE CASH POCKET

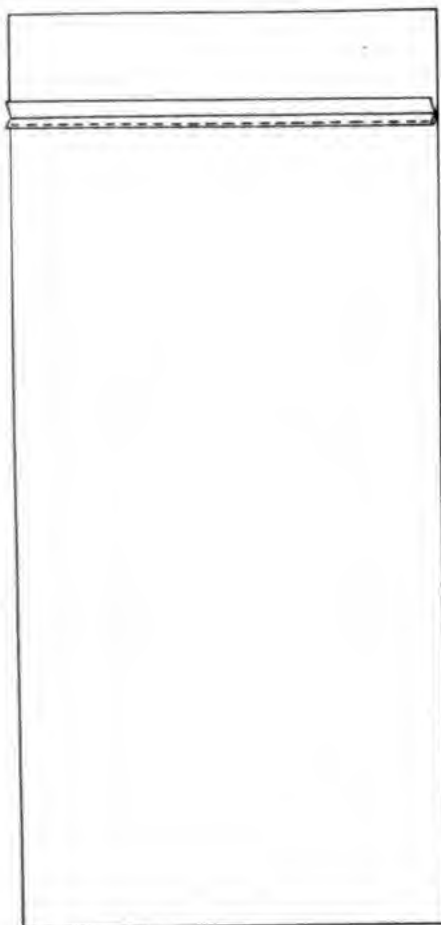
Once you are familiar with the construction of the double-piping pocket, it is simple to add, during construction, a smaller inner pocket, used most commonly for loose change—a *cash pocket*.

In addition to the fabric needed for the double-piping pocket, you will need a piece of pocketing, straight grain, 4" (10.2 cm) by 4½" (11.4 cm) by 4½" (11.4 cm), rounded slightly at the bottom edges.

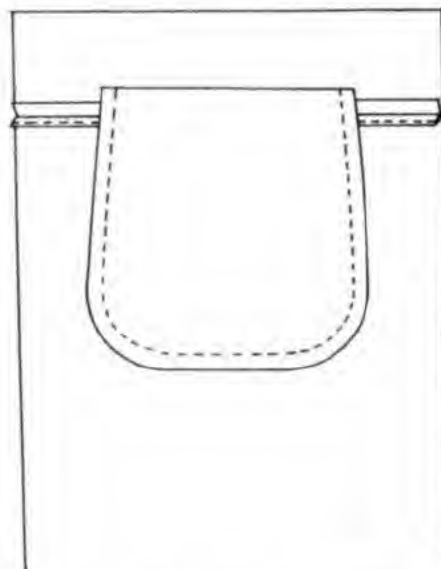




Cut about 2 1/2" (6.4 cm) from the top of the main piece of pocketing, and then stitch the pieces together, using a 3/8" (1 cm) seam.

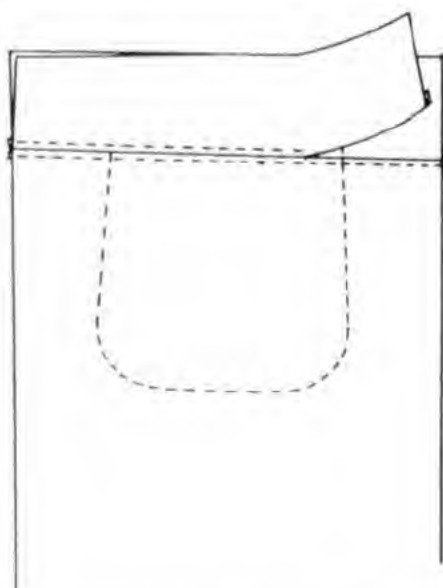


Press the seam open. Fold the bottom seam allowance under, and topstitch it in place.



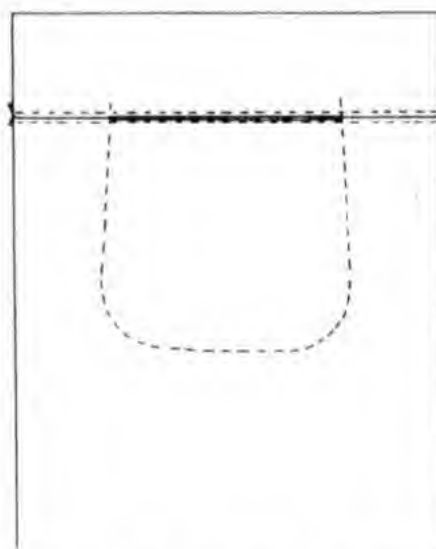
Place the cash pocket fabric on the wrong side of the pocketing, with the top edge of the cash pocket just above the top seam allowance. Stitch around the edge of the cash pocket using a 3/8" (1 cm) seam.





The garment fabric facing is now placed on the right side of the pocketing. Place the folded edge of the facing along the pocketing seamline, and topstitch the facing.

If there is a flap on the double-piping pocket you are making, there will be no facing. In this case, simply topstitch just above the seamline, holding the top seam allowance in place.



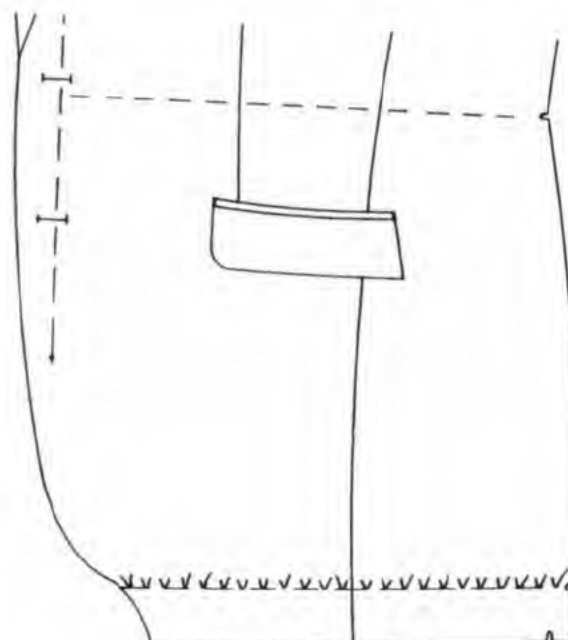
The seam at the top edge of the cash pocket is now snipped open to allow access, and the construction of the cash pocket is complete.

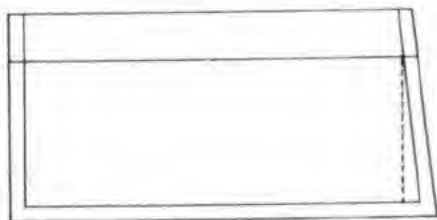
The construction of the double-piping pocket now continues.

## THE DOUBLE-PIPING POCKET WITH FLAP

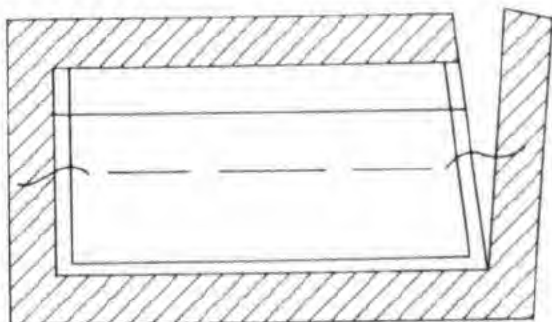
The flap added to the double-piping pocket is about 2 1/2" (6.4 cm) wide, finished. A flap which extends out slightly at the lower back edge compensates for the contour of the body and is more graceful than a perfect rectangle.

The top edge of the flap should be 1/8" (3 mm) larger (a slight 1/8") than the opening of the pocket into which it will be placed. The extra ease is taken by the body contour, and allows the flap to fall comfortably. It is easier to be accurate concerning the amount of ease in the flap if you make the flap first, and then the pocket.





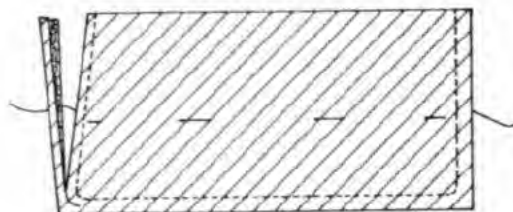
To make a pattern for the flap, draw a rectangle equal to the dimensions of the finished flap. For a 6" (15.2 cm) pocket opening, this would be 6 1/8" (15.6 cm) by 2 1/2" (6.4 cm). At the lower right corner, extend the rectangle by 1/4" (6 mm). Add 3/4" (1.9 cm) seam allowance at the top edge and 1/4" (6 mm) around the three sides. Use this pattern to cut flaps from your garment fabric, straight grain, nap down.



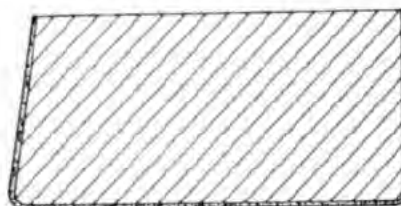
Baste the flap face down on the right side of a piece of lining, straight grain. Trim the lining even with the flap.



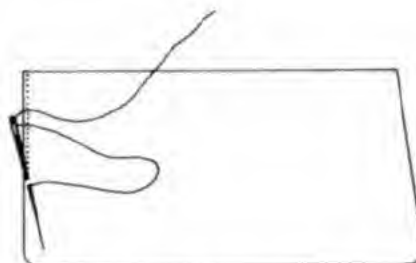
Baste around the flap close to the edge easing the garment fabric in from the lining about 1/8" (3 mm). This will make the lining slightly smaller than the flap, and will ensure that the lining will not show at the edges of the finished flap. Trim the excess lining.



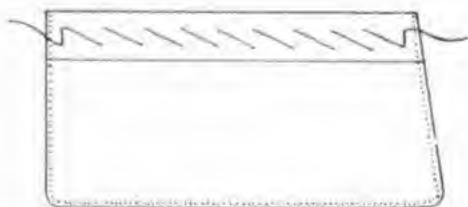
Machine stitch around the three sides using a 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance. Stitch from the lining side to avoid slippage. Trim the seam allowance to 1/8" (3 mm) and turn the flap to the right side.



A thin border of garment fabric should be visible from the lining side.

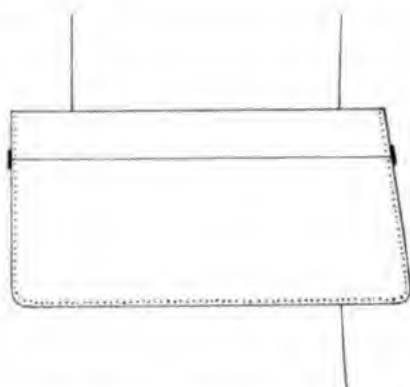


For a crisp finish, prick-stitch along the edge of the flap using silk finishing thread.

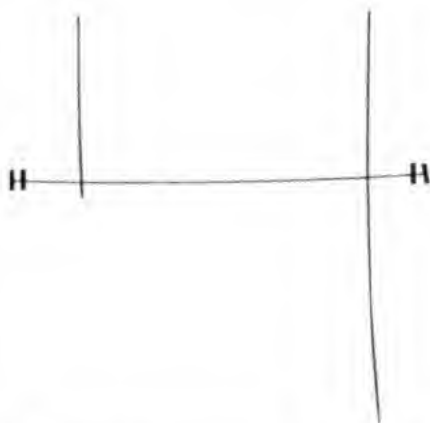


Press the flap from the right side, and baste across the top of the flap to hold the lining in place.

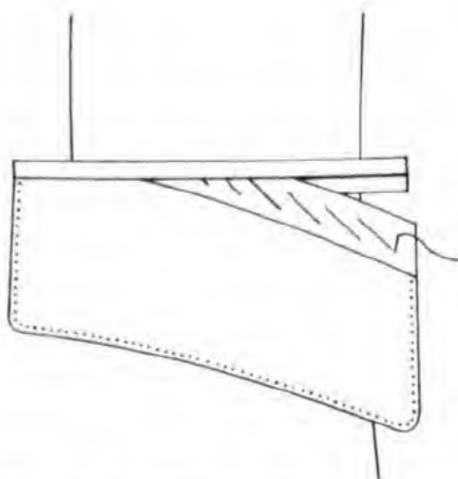
Measure up  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) from the bottom of the flap and draw a chalkline. This is the guideline for inserting the flap into the pocket opening.



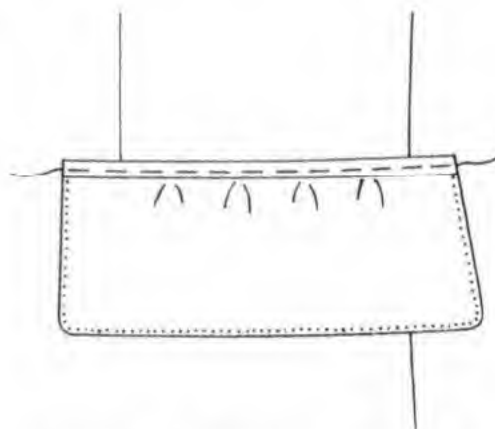
Place the flap on the jacket front. Match the chalkline on the flap to the pocket placement line on the jacket. Indicate the exact length of the flap by chalkmarking the jacket at either end of the flap.



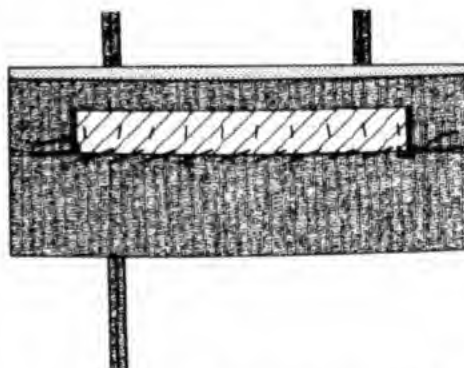
The pocket opening should be made  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) smaller than the flap. Therefore, chalkmark  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm) in from either end of the pocket placement line. Take these measurements carefully. If the flap is more than  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) larger than the pocket opening, the finished effect will be puckered and quite unprofessional.



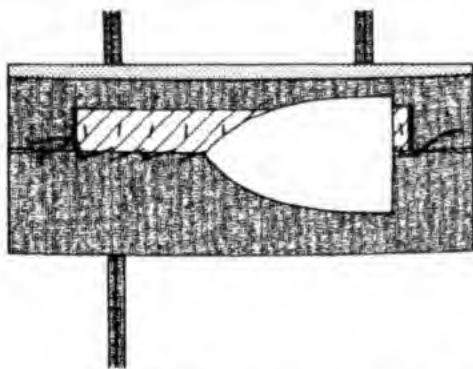
The double-piping pocket is now constructed according to the instructions given above. When the prongs have been secured to the piping (page 75), open the pocket and insert the flap, using the chalkline on the flap as a guide.



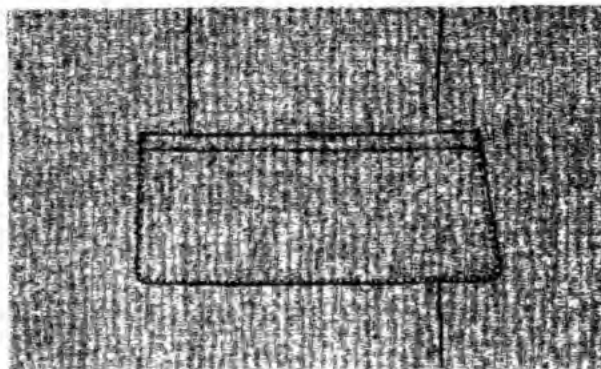
Baste through the top piping to hold the flap in place. The  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) ease in the flap should be drawn towards the center.



From the wrong side of the jacket, baste the pocket closed, catching one layer of the top piping through the flap.



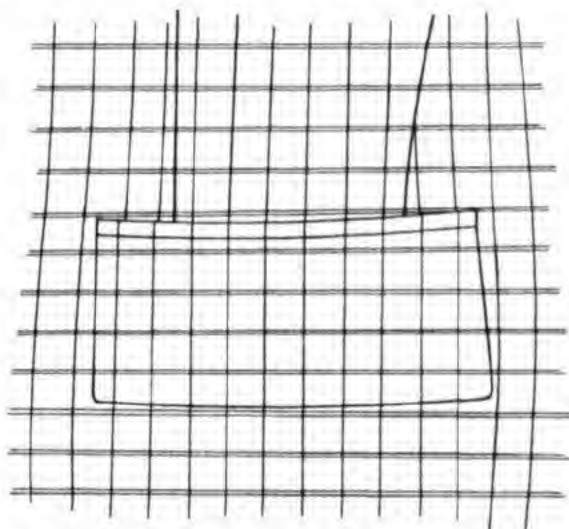
Using a ham, steam press the flap from the wrong side. The ripples at the top of the flap should disappear. If they do not, steam press once more, this time from the right side of the pocket.



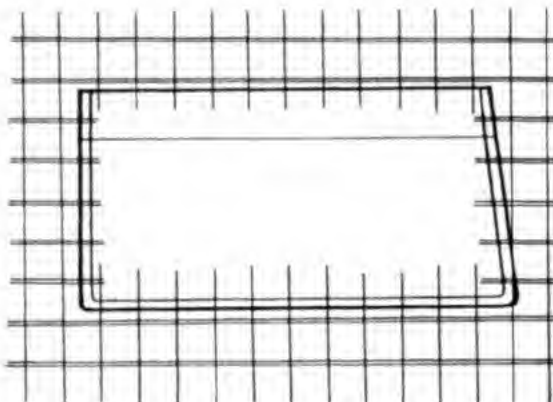
The inside of the pocket is completed according to the instructions for the double-piping pocket, with the exception of the facing. Since the flap covers the pocket opening, the garment fabric facing is not necessary at the top of the pocketing. It may be eliminated completely, or replaced by a less bulky facing of lining fabric.

When the pocketing is being machine stitched to the top piping (page 76), the flap is also caught, and thus attached to the garment.

## DOUBLE-PIPING POCKET WITH FLAP (PLAIDS/STRIPES)



The best jacket pattern to use for a plaid or striped fabric is one which eliminates the seam below the pocket by using a dart instead of a separate side panel (page 10). If there is no seam to distort the plaid lines below the pocket opening, it is possible to cut the flap for a double-piping pocket so that it matches the jacket fabric at the sides and bottom of the flap, as well as matching the piping at the top.



Place the flap pattern (page 81) on the jacket front, matching the flap placement line and pocket placement line.

On the pattern, draw lines around the edges indicating the placement of the plaid design. This procedure must be done for each pocket, since the lines may differ slightly.

Place the flap pattern on the right side of the plaid fabric so that the lines around the edges of the pattern coincide with those on the fabric.

Cut the fabric and proceed with the construction of the pocket (following the instructions given previously).

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# THE PATCH POCKET

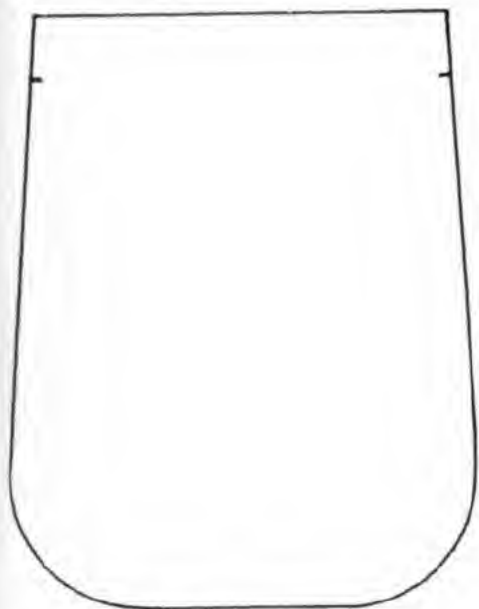
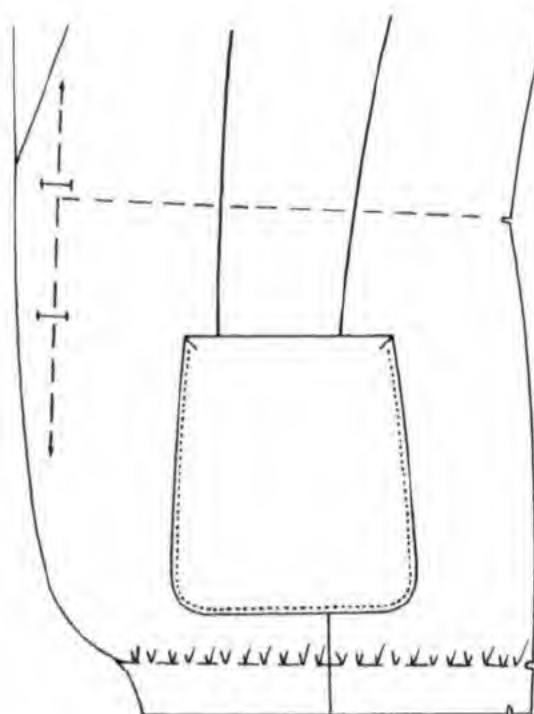
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The patch pocket is used on men's tailored jackets when a more casual effect is desired.

For a hip-level patch pocket, the width at the top edge is  $5\frac{3}{4}$ " (14.6 cm) to 6" (15.2 cm). The depth is approximately 9" (22.9 cm), however, this will vary according to the length of the jacket. The patch has a more graceful line if the width at the bottom is about 1" (2.5 cm) larger than at the top.

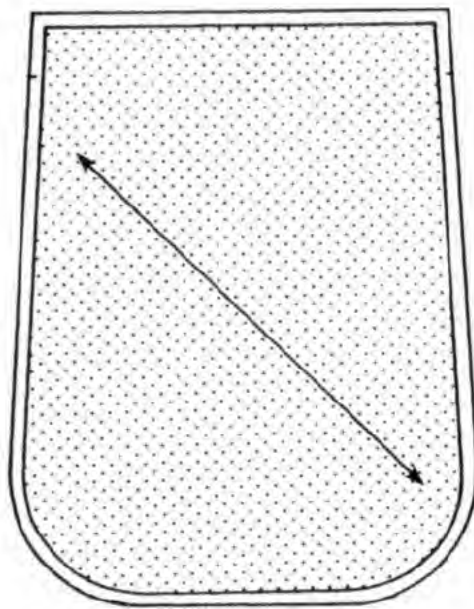
A breast-level patch pocket runs from  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (11.4 cm) to 5" (12.7 cm) at the top edge, and is approximately  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " (14 cm) deep.

Chalkmark the pocket placement line, (the top edge of the patch) on the front of the jacket.



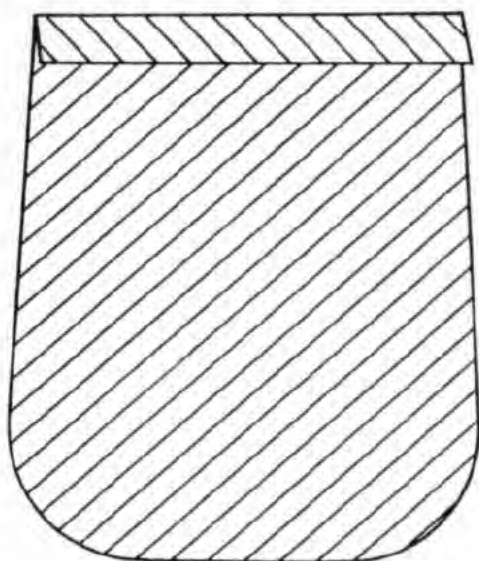
Cut a piece of garment fabric in the dimensions of the desired pocket, plus 1" (2.5 cm) extra fabric across the top and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam allowance on the other sides.

Notch both ends of the 1" (2.5 cm) fabric extension.

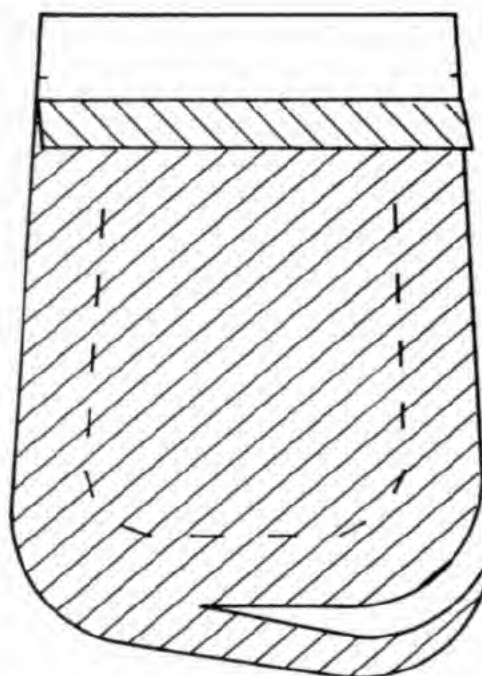


Apply a lightweight woven fusible, bias cut, to the wrong side of the pocket, leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) margin of fabric free all around.

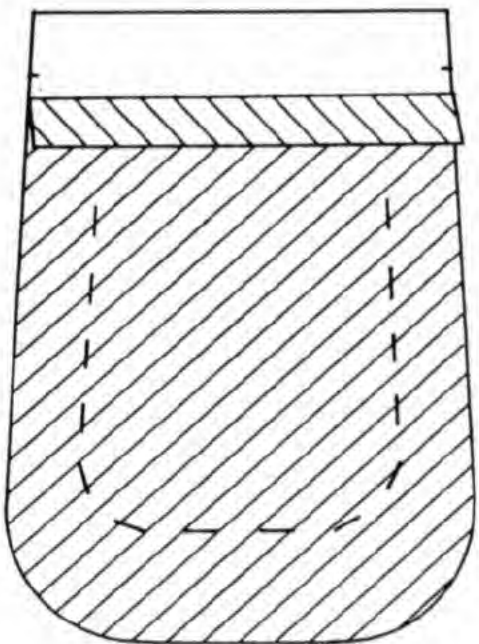




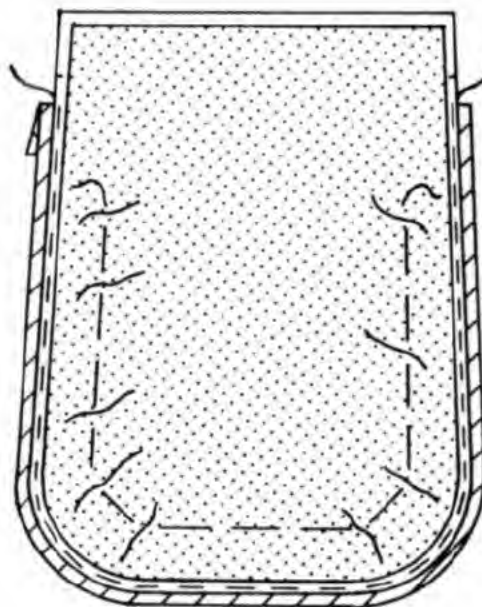
Cut a piece of lining, straight grain, slightly larger than the garment fabric. Press down  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) towards the wrong side at the top edge.



Trim the lining even with the patch.



Place the lining and pocket together, right sides touching; the folded edge of the lining should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the notches at the top of the pocket. Baste around the pocket, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) in from the edge.

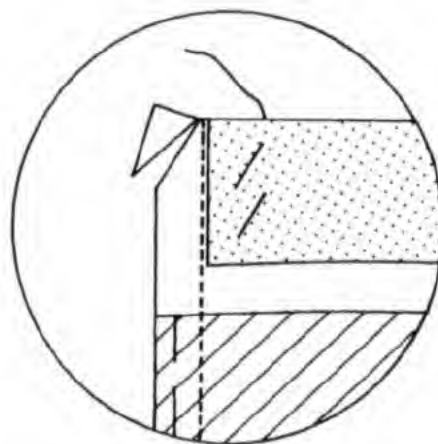


Working from the fusible side, baste around the patch once more, this time easing the patch in from the edge of the lining about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) all around. This step ensures that the finished patch will be slightly larger than the lining and that the lining will not show at the edges.

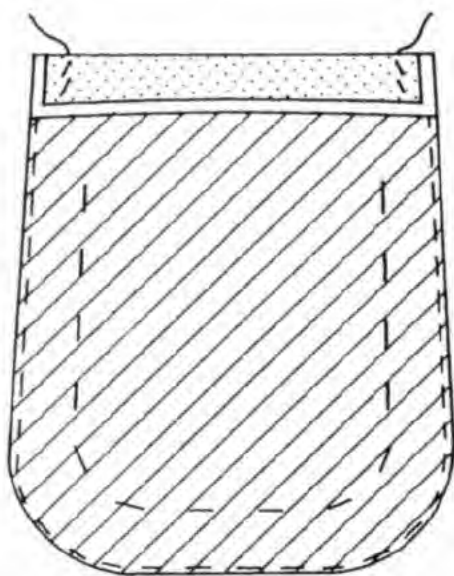




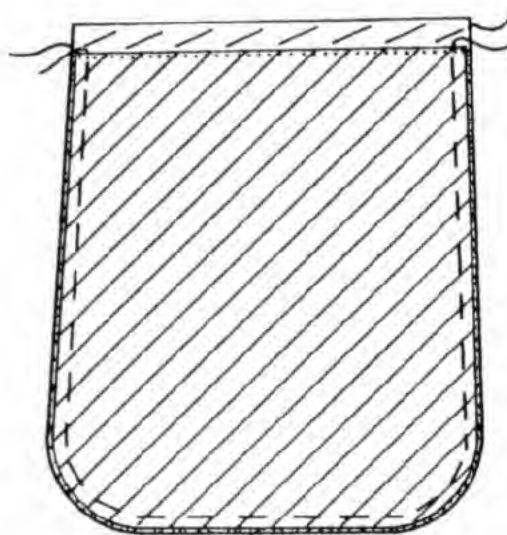
Trim the lining even with the patch



Using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam, machine stitch around the pocket, tacking well at the top corners. Sew from the lining side to avoid slippage. Trim the corners, remove the basting, and turn the pocket to the right side.



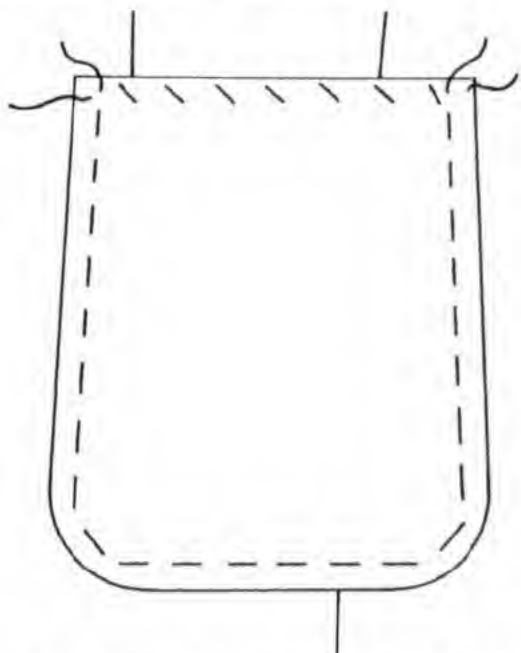
Fold the 1" (2.5 cm) extension back onto the lining and baste the ends down.



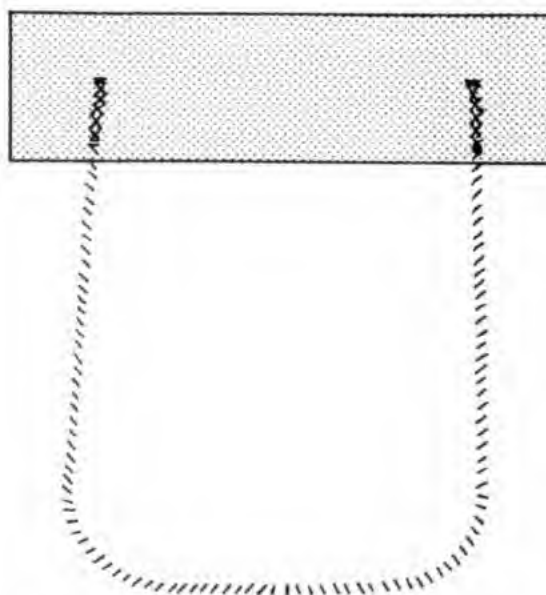
Baste around the edges of the patch once more, and then steam press on the right side. Use a handstitch to secure the folded edge of the lining at the top of the pocket. The patch is ready to be attached to the jacket.



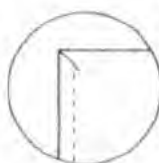
Cut a piece of pocketing to be used as reinforcement, straight grain, 3" (7.6 cm) wide and 2" (5 cm) longer than the top of the finished patch. Place the reinforcement on the wrong side of the jacket, centered over the pocket placement line. Baste or pin in place.



On the right side, place the top of the patch at the pocket placement line. Baste the patch to the jacket.



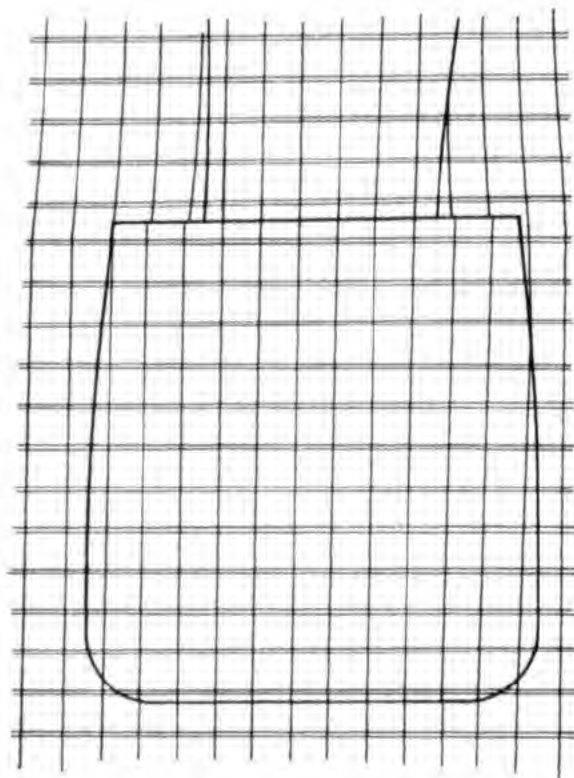
On the wrong side, secure the patch to the jacket by hand, using a diagonal stitch and silk finishing thread. Double the stitch in the reinforcement area.



You may choose to add a row of hand topstitching to the front of the pocket. If so, use buttonhole twist which you have waxed, and then pressed between two pieces of paper. The heat will melt the wax into the twist and give the thread a better body. If you wish, add a single bartack at each corner of the pocket as a finishing touch.

## PATCH POCKET (PLAIDS/STRIPES)

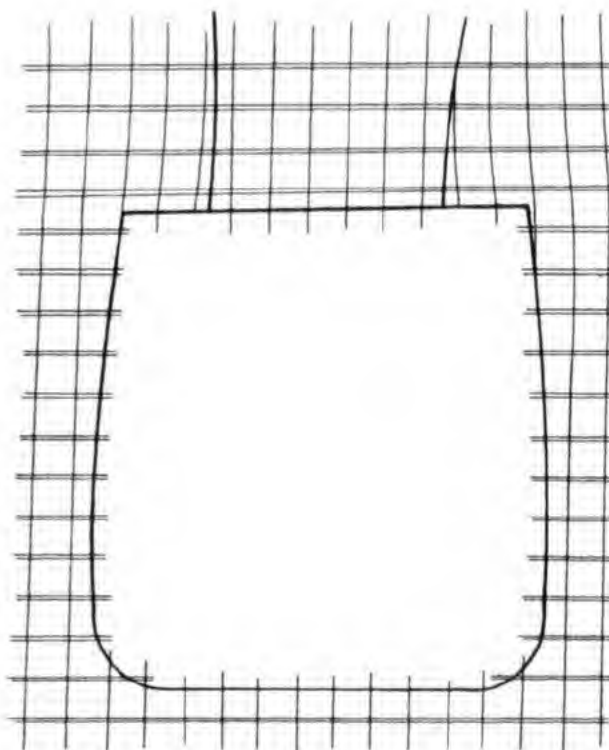
The plaid on the patch pocket should match the plaid on the jacket perfectly along both sides and at the bottom of the patch. There will, however, be slight distortion in the plaid on the jacket at either end of the pocket at the top edge, due to the darts.



In order to cut the patch so that the plaid lines match, place the patch pocket pattern (page 85) on the front of the jacket. Fold back the 1" (2.5 cm) extension at the top of the patch and place the notches, which are at the top of the patch, at the pocket placement line on the jacket. Draw lines on the pattern, around the edges, indicating the placement of the plaid design. This procedure must be done separately for each pocket, since the lines may differ slightly.

Open out the 1" (2.5 cm) extension which was folded at the top of the patch, and place the pattern on the right side of the plaid fabric, so that the lines around the edges of the pattern coincide with those on the fabric.

Cut the fabric and proceed with the construction of the pocket, following the instructions given above.

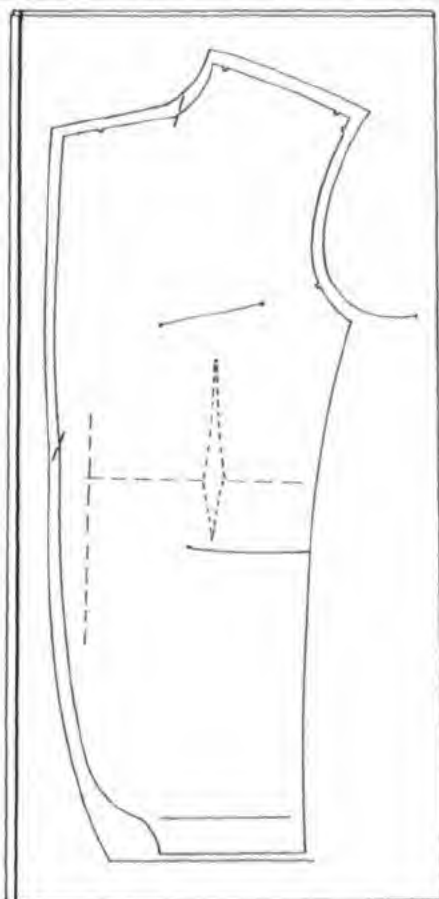


# PREPARING THE CANVAS

*Canvas* is the name given to the under-structure of the jacket, which is constructed from wool canvas interfacing, haircloth, and French collar canvas; and covered in part by flannel.

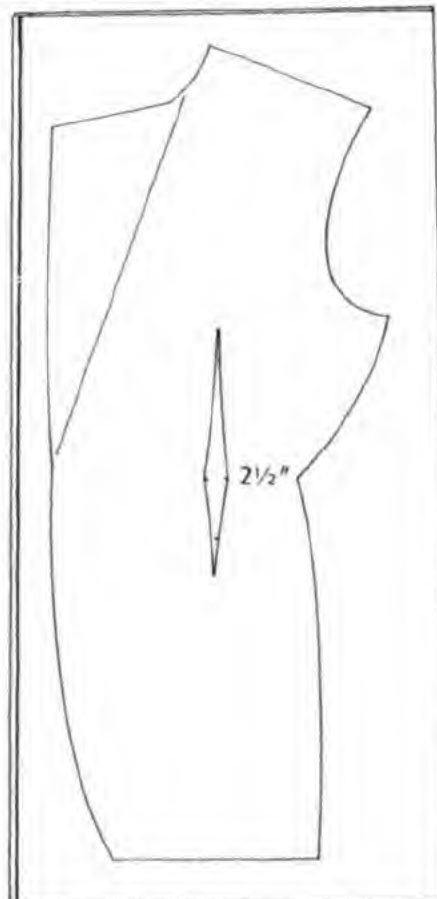
These layers of fabric, heavily concentrated in the chest area of the jacket, are meant to give the jacket a body that does not depend completely for its life on the human body wearing the jacket. The purpose of the canvas is to control the fabric and reduce its susceptibility to wrinkling and stretching.

It is possible to purchase pre-padded, fully constructed canvas fronts at tailoring supply stores. They are sold according to average suit sizes. Although many tailors use these ready-made canvas fronts, we offer you instructions for cutting and preparing the canvas yourself, because we strongly believe that an "average" size canvas will never fit as well as one which is made *specifically* for your jacket.



The wool canvas interfacing is cut on the straight grain using the jacket front pattern as guide. Trace around the pattern,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) from the edge at the armhole, shoulder, neck, lapel, and jacket front. Leave a bit of extra fabric at the hem curve and across the bottom of the pattern. Extend the underarm line about 2" (5 cm) out at the side, to approximately the center of the underarm.

Indicate on the canvas, the top and bottom of the roll line and the dart points. Remove the pattern.



Draw the roll line. Lengthen the dart 1" (2.5 cm) at top and bottom, and draw new dart stitchlines.

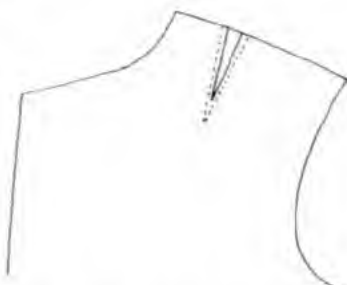
Draw a curved line from the armhole to a point on the waistline  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) from the dart stitchline. Curve gently from the waist to the hem.



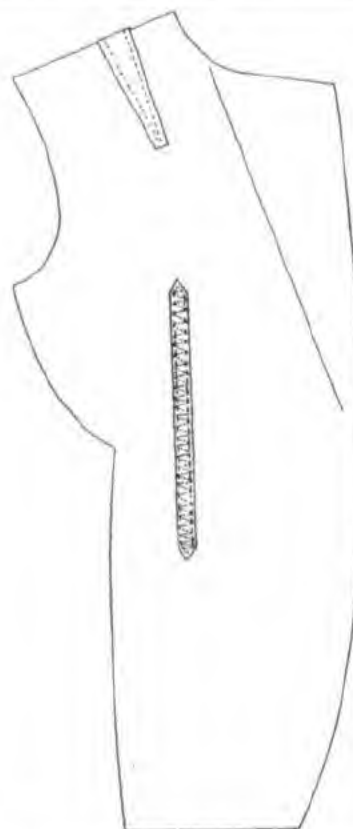
Cut out the canvas. There is no right or wrong side of the canvas fabric, however, for purposes of construction, indicate with an "X" the wrong side of each piece.

Cut out the dart, using the dart stitchline as a cutting line.

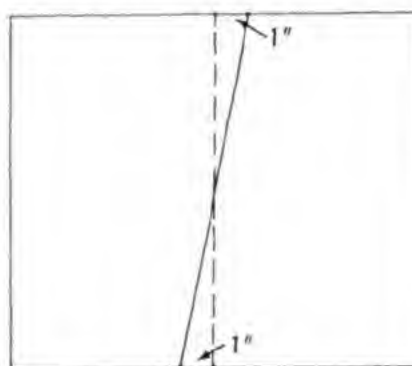
Divide the shoulder into thirds, and mark each section. On the mark closest to the neck, cut a 3" (7.6 cm) slit into the canvas.



Cut a bias strip of wool canvas interfacing  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm) by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm). Topstitch it to the wrong side of the canvas, so that the slash in the shoulder is held open  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) at the top.

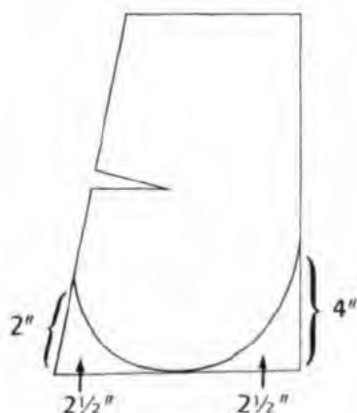


The waistline dart is closed by topstitching a bias strip of pocketing to the wrong side of the canvas, and butting the dart closed. The dart is reinforced by a row of zigzag stitching on top of the pocketing strip.



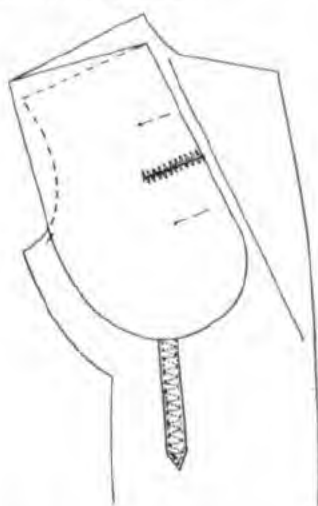
Haircloth is usually sold in 18-inch (45.7 cm) widths with a fringe of hair along the width. Measure your jacket front pattern at center shoulder, from 1" (2.5 cm) below the stitchline to 2" (5 cm) above the waistline. Cut the haircloth to this length, and trim away the fringe along the edge.

Fold the haircloth in half. Draw a diagonal line running from 1" (2.5 cm) to the right of the center at the top to 1" (2.5 cm) to the left of center at the bottom. Cut the haircloth along the diagonal line.



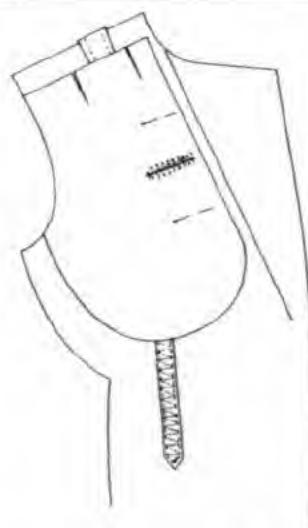
Place the two pieces of haircloth together, narrow edges at top (there is no right or wrong side to the haircloth). Trim the bottom edges of the haircloth as illustrated. At the center of the longer side of the "plastron" or shield, which we are now constructing, draw a dart 3" (7.6 cm) long and 1/2" (1.3 cm) wide. Cut out the dart.

Using the plastron as a pattern, cut two pieces of covering flannel, straight grain, 1/2" (1.3 cm) larger than the plastron all around. *Do not* put darts in the flannel.

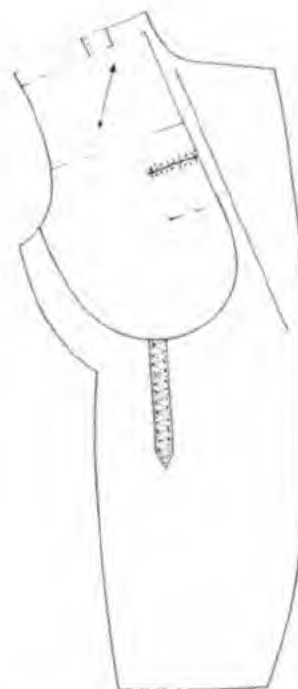


Close the dart on the haircloth with a zig-zag stitch (the dart sides butted together). Pocketing is not needed here as reinforcement for the dart.

When the dart has been closed, place the haircloth plastron on the canvas, 1/2" (1.3 cm) back from the roll line. The top of the haircloth should be trimmed so that it lies parallel to the shoulder, about 2" (5 cm) below the top of the canvas. Trim the haircloth flush with the canvas at the armhole.



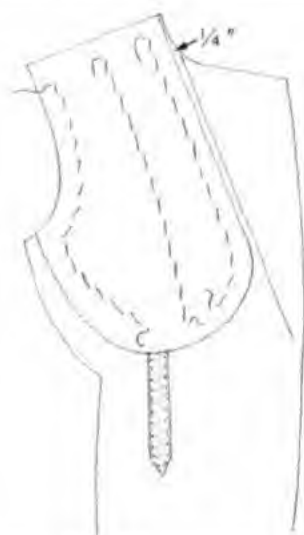
Cut two slashes into the haircloth—1 1/2" (3.8 cm) to either side of the center of the shoulder dart, and 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) deep.



Place a 5" (12.7 cm) wide bias cut of French collar canvas across the top of, and extending 1" (2.5 cm) above, the haircloth.

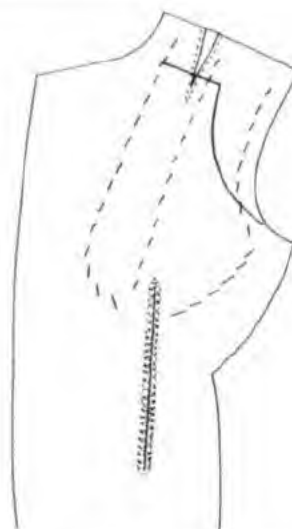
Trim it flush with the canvas at the armhole.



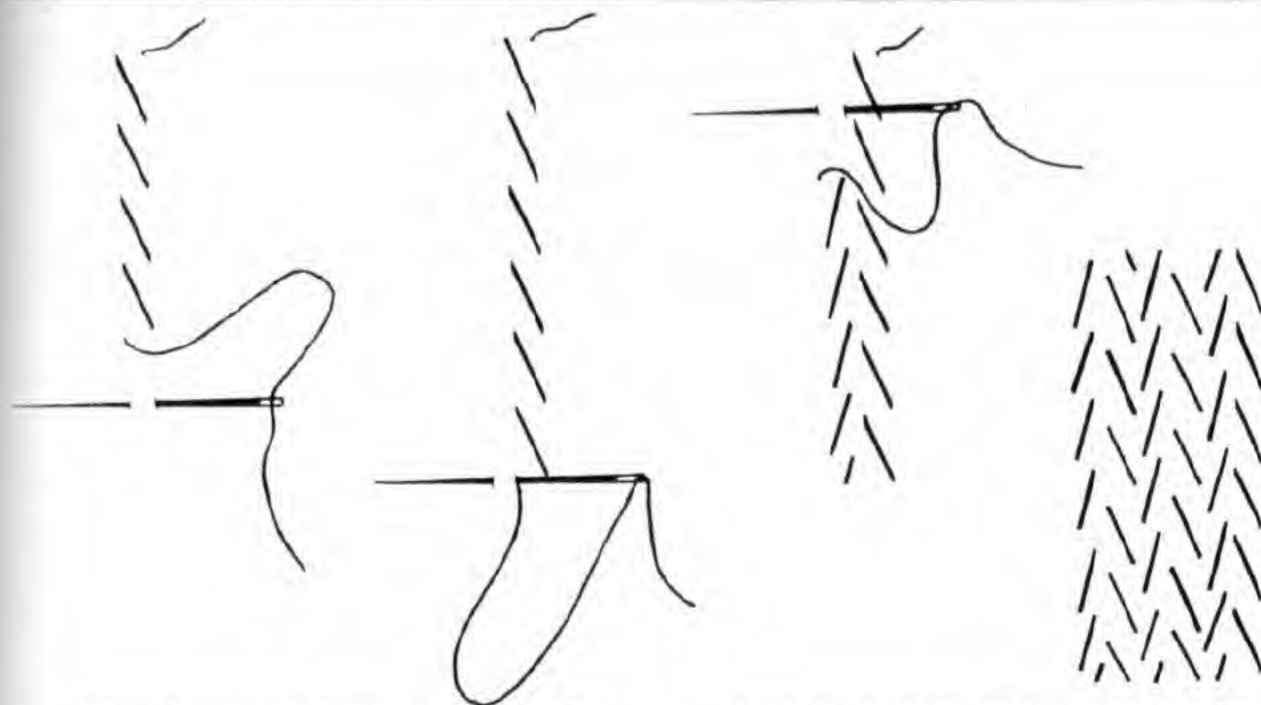


Place the flannel covering  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) in from the roll line. Trim it flush with the canvas at the shoulder and armhole. Baste all layers together (as illustrated).

The flannel side of the canvas will be worn towards the body, and will prevent the haircloth from scratching your client through the lining.

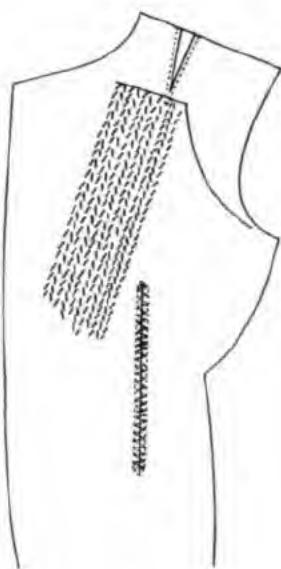


On the right side of the canvas, draw a chalk guideline, below which the haircloth, the French canvas, and the flannel covering will be pad-stitched to the canvas interfacing. This guideline, drawn about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) below the shoulder and 3" (7.6 cm) in from the armhole, tapers into the underarm curve.



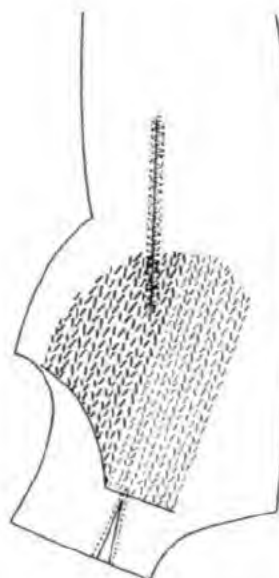
The pad stitch is a diagonal stitch which is staggered from one row to the next. It is used to join two or more layers of fabric, so that they act as one, while maintaining their individual characteristics. If the stitches are pulled too tightly while padding, the fabric will pucker and create bulky ridges between the rows. We will be using the pad stitch at several points during the construction of the jacket.

Here, because the stitch will not be visible in the finished jacket, it can be done in basting thread and the amount of fabric picked up by the needle (the size of the stitch on the underside) can be a generous  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm). The size of the diagonal is a good  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm). *Do not* spend time measuring your stitches. Just get a general sense of the size, and proceed.

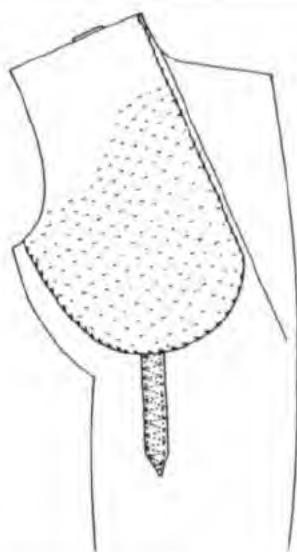


Since the plastron area is now somewhat bulky, it is easier to padstitch half of the area at a time. Begin at the center and stitch in vertical rows, working your way over to the end of the flannel at the roll line; then from the center out to the end of the flannel at the armhole. Padstitch only in the area covered by the flannel and below the chalk guideline.

It will be easier to work with the canvas upside down on one-half of the plastron. Which



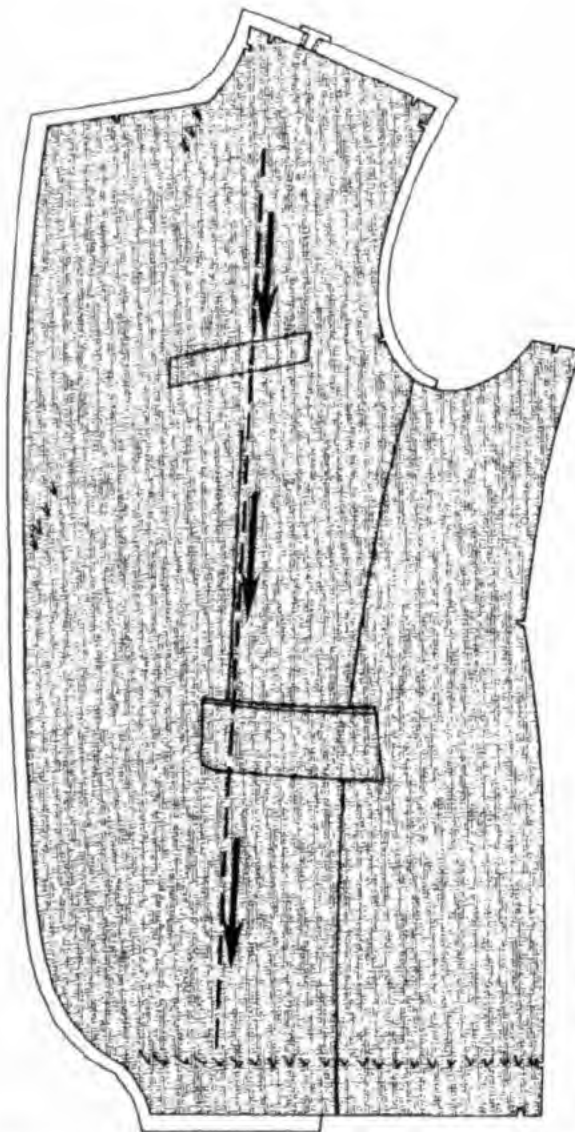
half this happens to be depends on which hand you sew with, and which side of the jacket you are preparing. The padstitching is done on the right side of the canvas, because stitching on this side will produce the correct contour in the plastron. The wrong side of the plastron will be facing the body in the finished garment. Padstitching on the right side will contour the canvas correctly, towards the body.



On the wrong side, slipstitch the edges of the flannel to the canvas.

The canvas is now pressed gently, and is ready to be basted to the jacket front.

## ASSEMBLING THE CANVAS AND JACKET

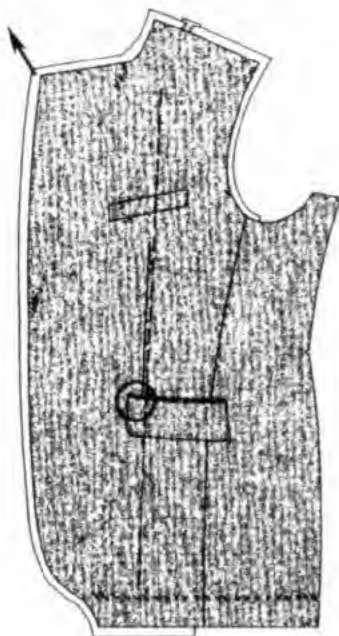


The canvas and jacket front are now basted together so that they may be handled as one unit during the construction of the jacket. It is important that the jacket front lay smoothly over the canvas. Any rippling visible on the garment fabric after it has been basted to the canvas, will be impossible to press out. Therefore, several rows of stitching are used to control the two layers of fabric, and great care is taken to gently smooth the fabric ahead of the needle as you baste. The arrows in the sketches indicate the direction in which the fabric is smoothed.

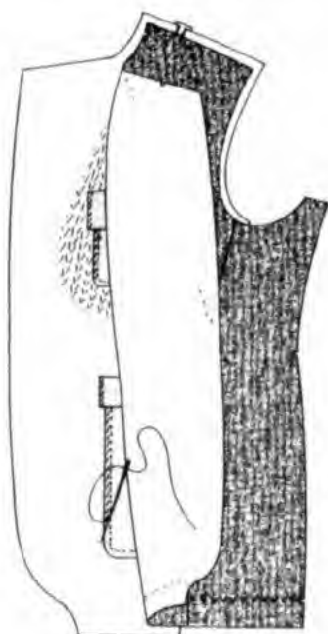
On a flat surface, place the jacket front and canvas together with the wrong side of the jacket to the right side of the canvas. The canvas

and jacket darts should meet. Since the canvas darts are longer (page 90), however, they will extend above and below the jacket darts. A  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) margin of canvas should be visible around the outer edges of the jacket.

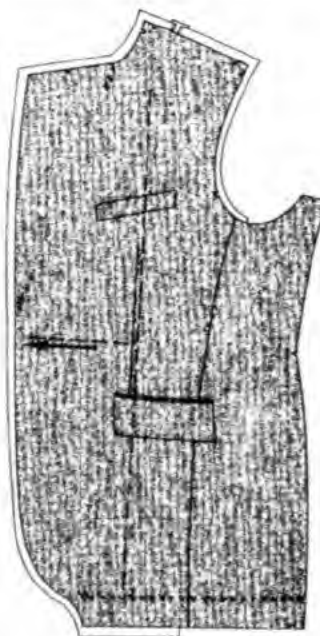
Beginning above the front dart, about 3" (7.6 cm) below the shoulder, baste down the front of the jacket, catching the canvas and smoothing the garment fabric gently ahead in the direction of the arrows. The stitches are about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) long and are left comfortably without tension. Baste through the pockets, using dart as guideline, and finish at the hem foldline.



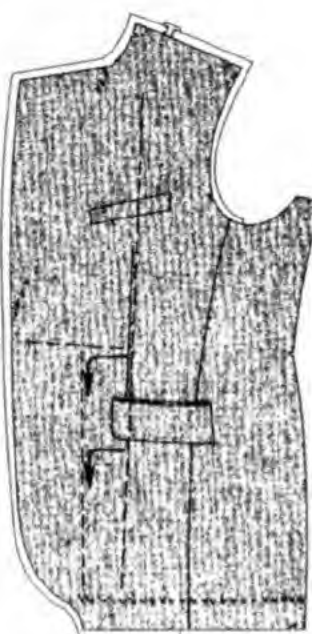
Before proceeding with the outside basting, the pockets must be secured into the canvas. With one hand on the hip pocket to prevent the garment fabric from shifting, tug gently upwards at the tip of the canvas lapel. *Gently* is the word. This should eliminate any rippling in the canvas on the diagonal from the hip pocket to the lapel tip.



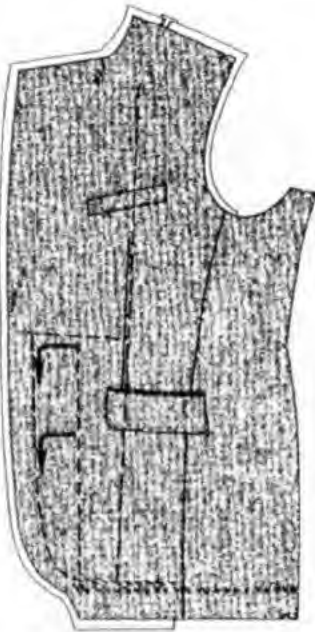
Carefully fold back the garment fabric until the ends of the pockets are visible. Baste one edge of the pocket seam allowance, and the reinforcement ends into the canvas using diagonal stitches.



Fold the garment fabric back in place. Smooth and baste the fabric across the waistline from the dart to 1" (2.5 cm) from the edge of the jacket.



Below the waistline, at approximately mid-way on the second stitchline, baste down from waist to hem smoothing the fabric as indicated by the arrows.



Approximately 1" (2.5 cm) from the jacket edge, baste down from the waist to just above the hem, and continue across to the end of the canvas.

stitchline #5



Above the waist, the fabric is smoothed up and out, as stitchline #5 rises from the waist to 3" (7.6 cm) below the shoulder.

stitchline  
#6

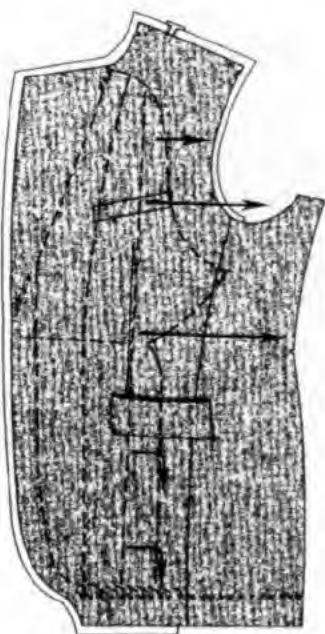


Using the tailor tacks as a guide, chalkmark the roll line on the right side of the jacket. Stitchline #6 moves up from the waist into the roll line. The fabric is smoothed up and out between stitchlines #5 and #6 as the roll line is basted.

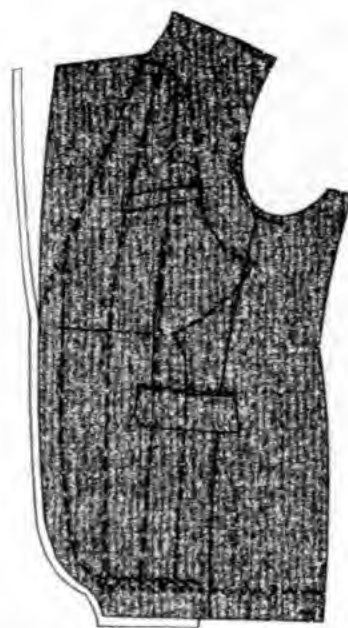


If you are working on the left front of the jacket, carefully fold back the fabric until the inside of the welt pocket is visible. One side of the pocket has already been basted into the canvas (page 96). Now, following the same procedure as above, baste the second side of the pocket into the canvas. This side of the hip pocket cannot be basted, since it overshoots the canvas. Fold the garment fabric back in place.





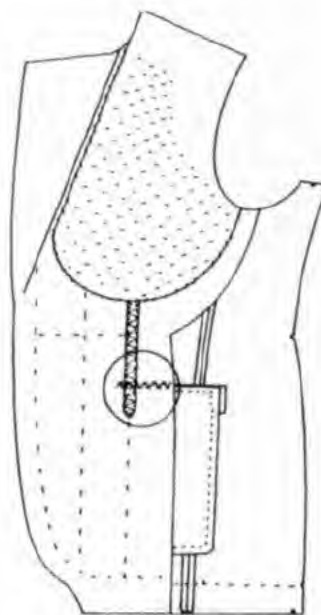
Stitchline #7 runs across the top of the other stitchlines, and traces the armhole, remaining 3" (7.6 cm) away from the edge. The basting curves into the waist, then out and down to the hem. Smooth the fabric gently, following the direction of the arrows.



With the basting completed, hold the jacket front up and check that there is no rippling in the garment fabric between the lines of basting. Slight rippling is to be expected on the canvas side, and serves as ease for the garment fabric. Trim the canvas even with the jacket front.



The bias curve of the jacket armhole is basted into the canvas. Care should be taken not to stretch the fabric in this area.



Cross-stitch the canvas into the seam allowance at the top of the pocket.

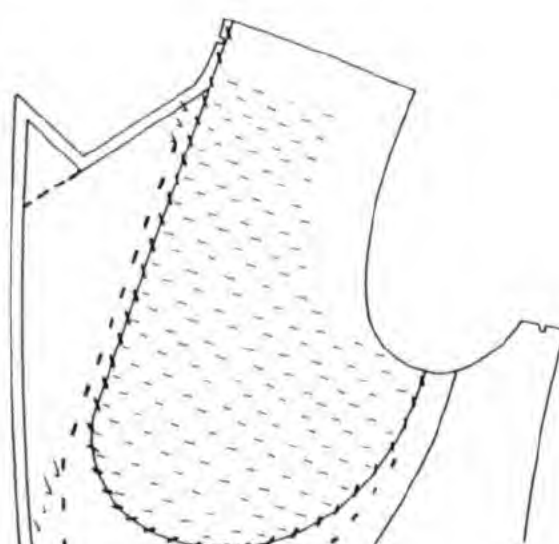
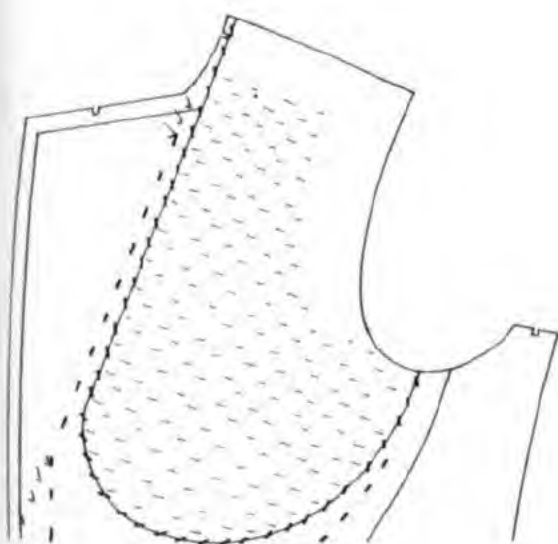
The assembly of canvas and jacket front is complete.



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## PADSTITCHING THE LAPELS

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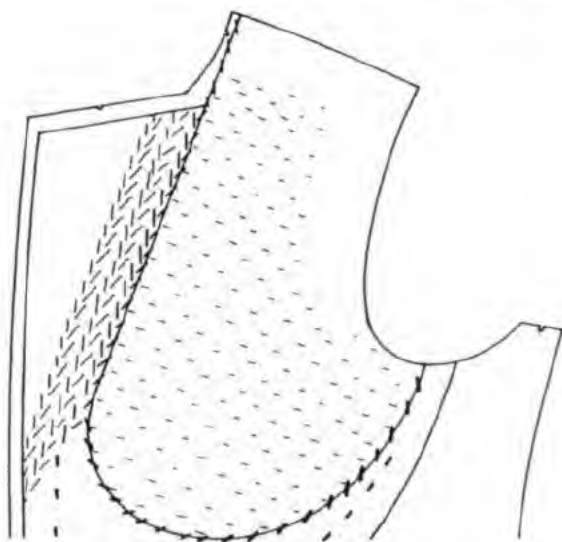


In order to give the jacket lapel the crisp body it will need in the finished jacket, the canvas lapel is now padstitched (page 93) into the jacket lapel.

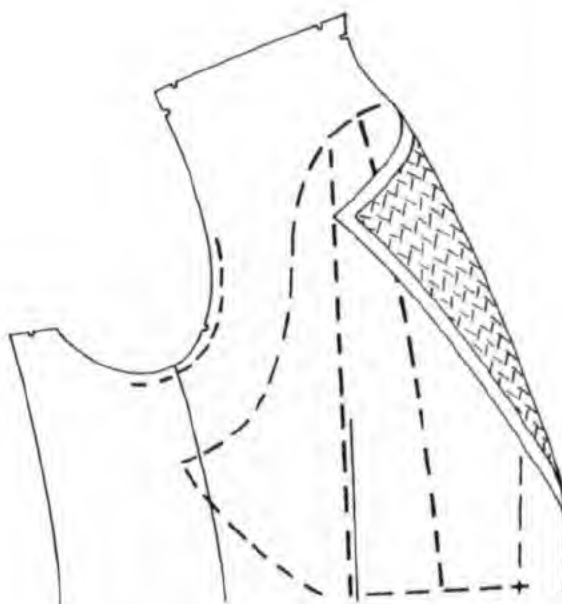
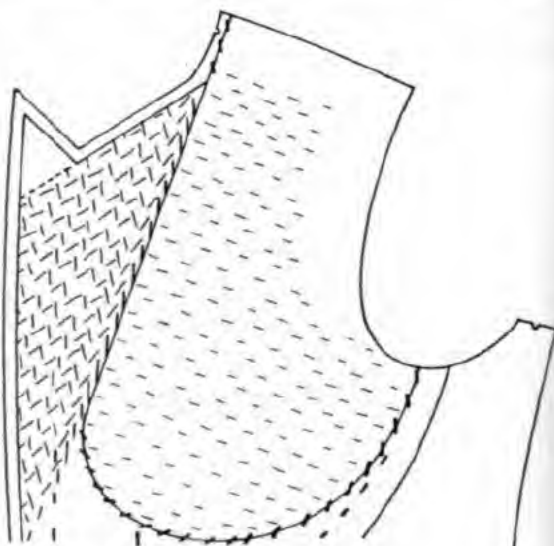
Since these stitches will show through on the underside of the lapel in the finished jacket, use silk thread in a color that matches the garment fabric. The stitches on the canvas side should be about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) long. On the jacket side, they should be tiny pinpricks.

As previously discussed, if the stitches are pulled too tightly while padding, the canvas will pucker and create ridges which will be obvious through the facing on the finished garment.

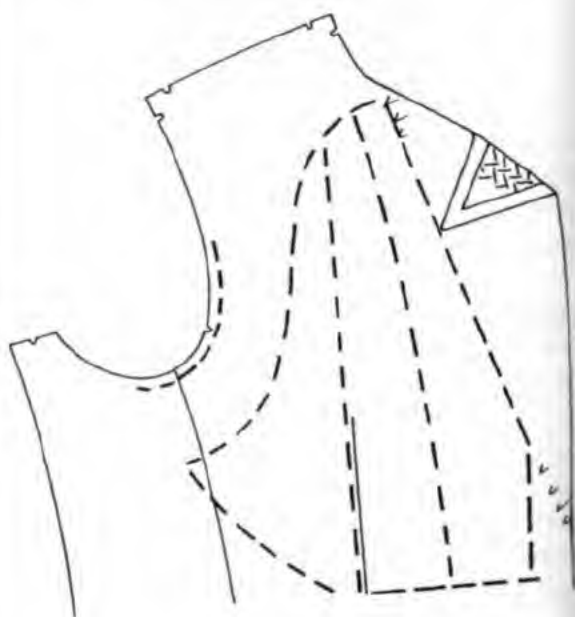
Draw a chalkline on the canvas lapel indicating the seam allowance. If you are working on a *peak lapel*, add a line across the bottom of the peak.



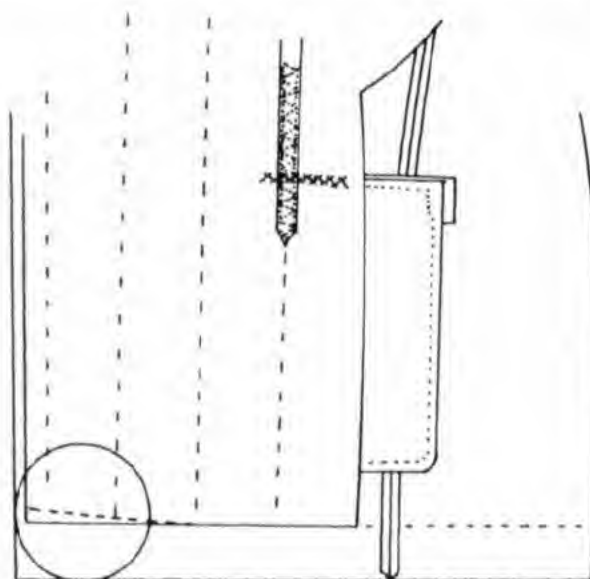
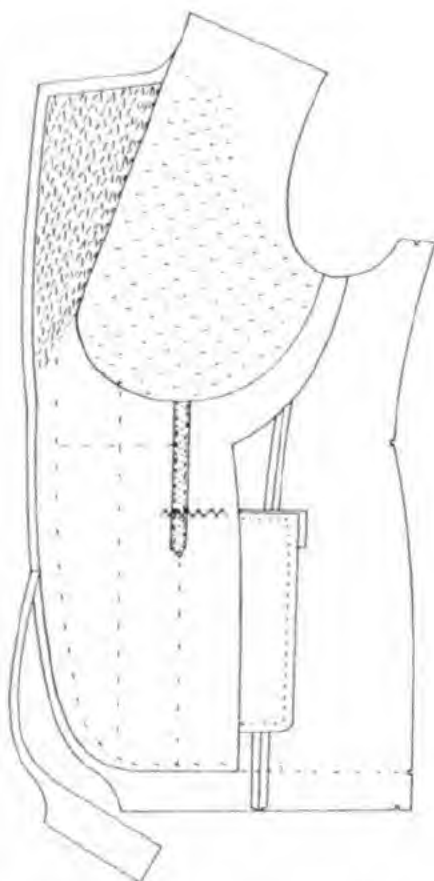
From the canvas side, begin padstitching along the very edge of the flannel, working across the lapel in rows parallel to the roll line.



About 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) past the roll line, turn the lapel so that it takes the position it will have in the finished jacket. Continue to padstitch with the lapel held in this position. This procedure of rolling the lapel while padstitching ensures that the garment fabric lapel will end up slightly smaller than the canvas lapel, and will, therefore, pull towards the jacket. It is exactly this inclination or pulling towards the jacket that we are trying to create for a natural roll of the lapel.



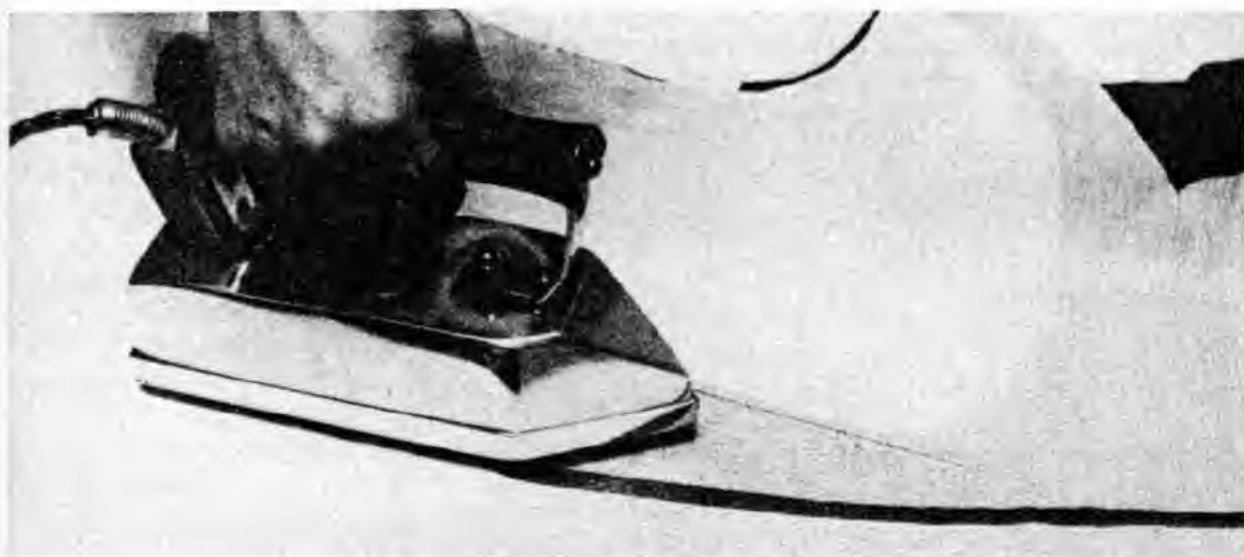
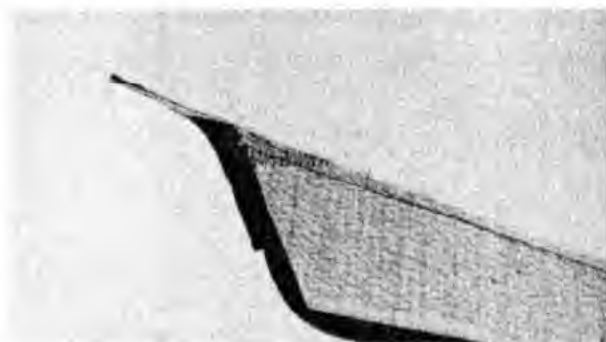
If you are working on a peak lapel, a second rolling is suggested. To prevent the peak from drooping forward in the finished garment, it is padstitched while held rolled towards the jacket body.



If your jacket is double-breasted, the right front must be shortened at this point to prevent it from hanging below the left front when the jacket is buttoned. Shorten the front edge of the jacket at the hem, by  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm), tapering to nothing 7" (17.8 cm) in from the edge.

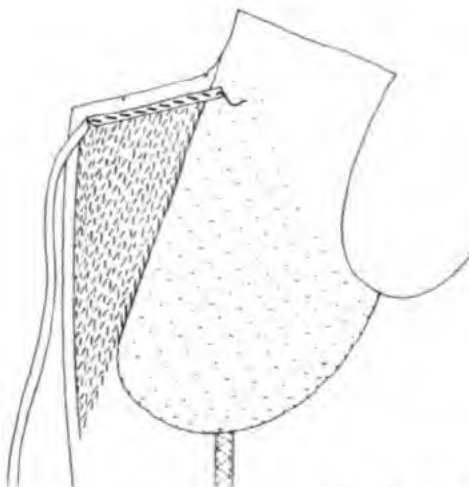
Beginning  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) past the roll line, draw the seam allowance on the canvas—across the top of the lapel, down the jacket front, and across the hemline at the bottom of the canvas.

Trim away the canvas in the seam allowance. *Be very careful as you cut the canvas, not to cut the garment fabric.*



The lapel is now pressed from the canvas side.

# THE TAPING

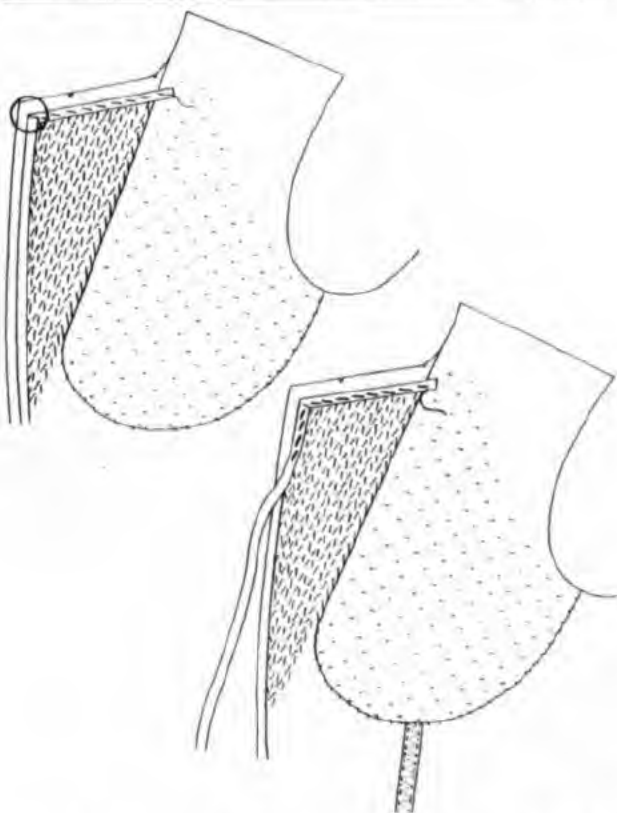


Tape is now applied along the outer edge of the lapel and jacket front to give a crisp, defined edge to the jacket. The tape is also run along the bias of the roll line, as additional support.

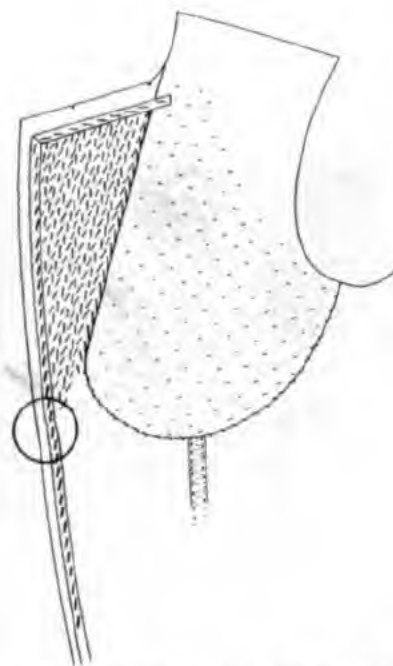
Use  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) cotton twill tape which has been soaked in cool water and pressed. Begin-

ning  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) past the roll line, baste the tape along the top of the lapel with the top edge of the tape flush with the top edge of the canvas.

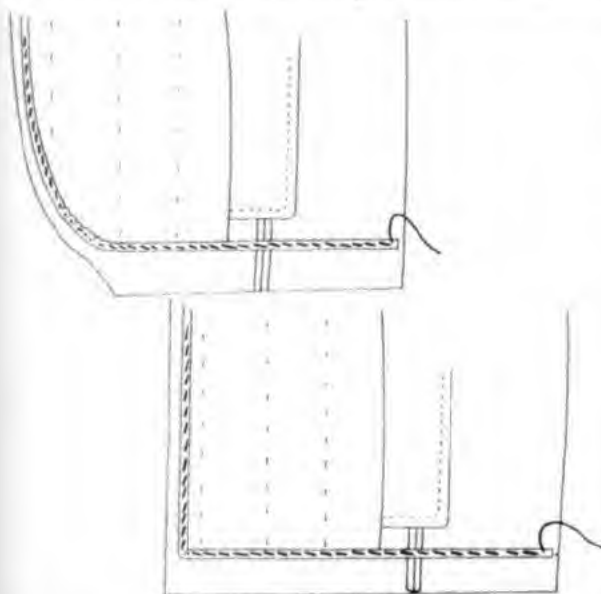
At the tip of the lapel, slash the tape almost to the end, and bring it down along the edge of the lapel.



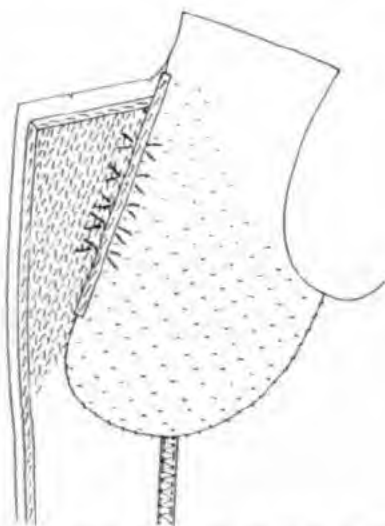
Snip away the overlap of tape at the lapel tip, and baste down the lapel and the jacket front. Extend the tape into the seam allowance, beyond the canvas, about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm).



At the bottom of the roll line, place  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) ease in the tape, so that the lapel will be free to fold over without restriction.



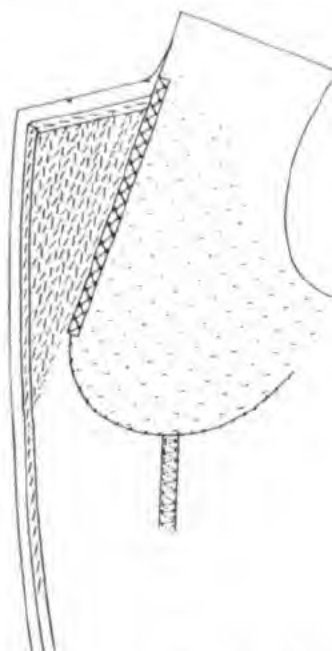
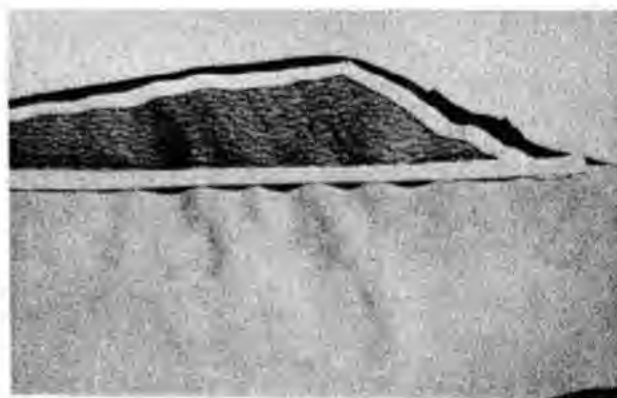
Tape across the top of the hem foldline with the bottom edge of the tape on the hemline.



Tape is also applied at the edge of the flannel,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) beyond the roll line. Baste the tape, through all layers of fabric, from the neck edge down for about 3" (7.6 cm). Take a couple of backstitches, and then begin pulling the tape as you baste for the next 3" (7.6 cm) or so. Rippling should appear on either side of the tape. Take a couple of backstitches at the end of the 3" (7.6 cm) span to keep the rippling in place and continue basting without pulling the tape.

Only the top two-thirds of the roll line area is taped. The bottom third is left free to allow the lapel to roll easily.

Pulling the roll-line tape creates the equivalent of a dart through the roll line. In the finished jacket, the effect is a roll line less inclined to pull away from the body.



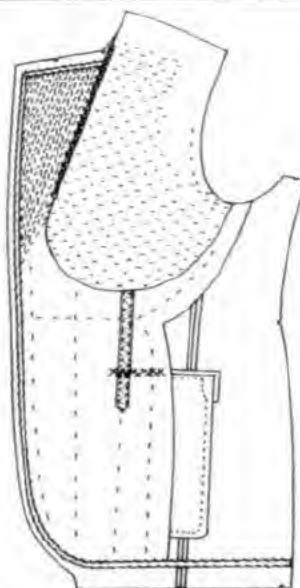
Using silk thread, cross-stitch along the roll-line tape, stitching through all layers of fabric. The stitches should be along the very edge of the tape to prevent it from curling up. You will notice that the rippling in the jacket at the center of the roll line disappears as the tape is cross-stitched to the jacket.





Press the roll-line tape, allowing the lapel to fall free.

The rest of the tape is secured by slip-stitching along both edges, using silk thread. Along the outer edge of the tape, stitch through to the right side of the fabric. The stitches should be very small and sewn without pulling. On the inner edge of the tape, stitching through all layers can only be done in the lapel area. Below the lapel catch only the canvas. If you were to stitch through all layers on the inner edge of the



tape below the lapel, these stitches would be visible and unwelcomed down the front of the finished jacket.

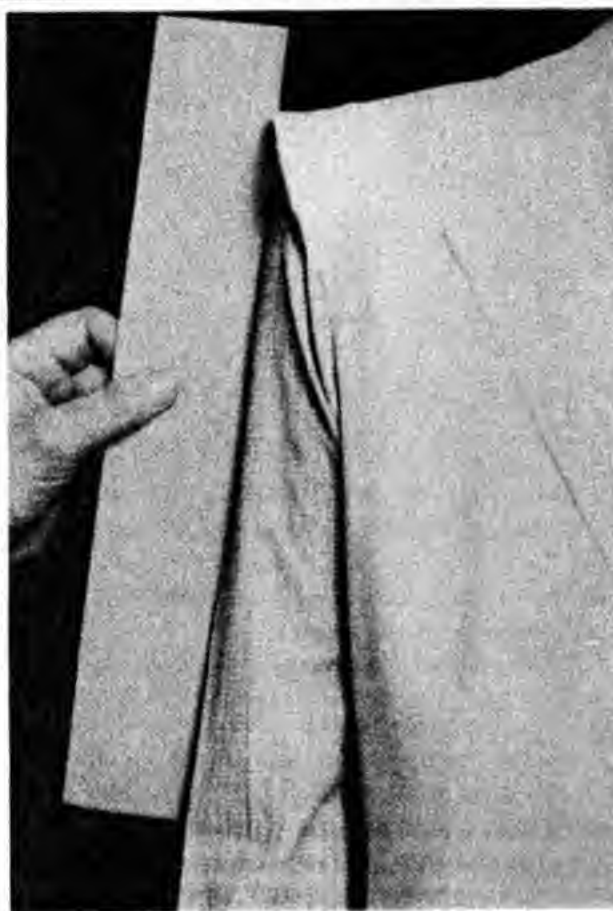
Trim the seam allowance along the jacket front and at the top of the lapel, so that only  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) seam allowance shows beyond the tape.

## FIRST FITTING

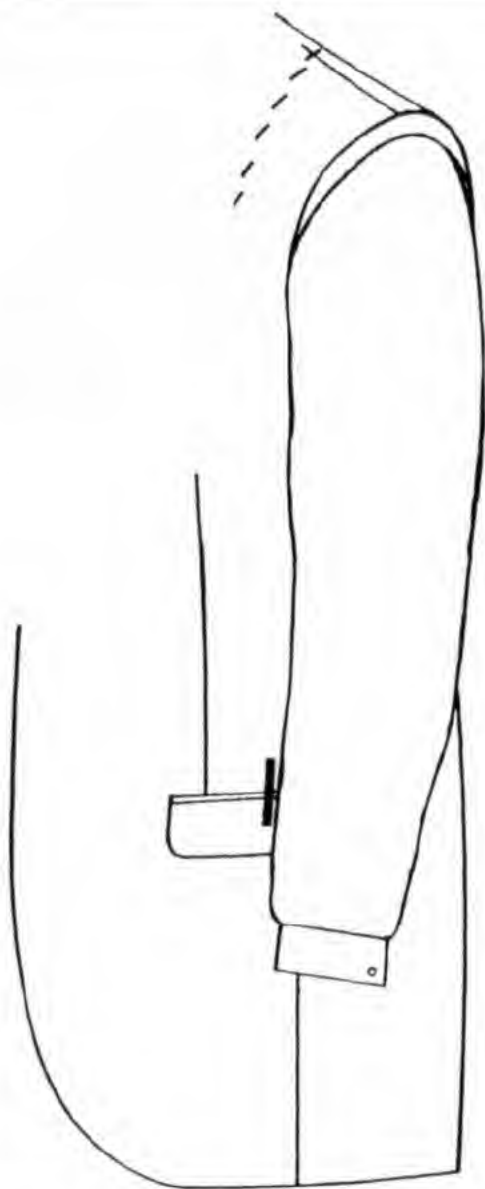
The jacket is basted together at the back and shoulder seams, and tried on by the client. Place well-constructed shoulder pads in the jacket for this fitting (page 132), so that the true contour of the shoulder, as it will appear in the finished jacket, may be observed.

With the front of the jacket pinned closed at the buttonhole markings, check the entire front, back, and side of the jacket with a keen eye for the creases we observed during the muslin fitting.

Chalkmark, or pin, any minor fitting adjustments. Check the shoulder width! If the cutting edge at the top of the shoulder extends out well beyond the shoulder edge, the fabric may need trimming. As a guide, place a ruler at the bicep and let it extend up towards the shoulder. If the fabric extends out beyond the ruler at the shoulder, the jacket shoulder is too wide and should be trimmed before attaching the shoulder pad. Give special attention to the armhole. With the client's arm resting comfortably at his side, see if there is any wrinkling or pulling in the front notch area of the armhole. If there is, the jacket fabric must be trimmed in this area (a small amount at a time).





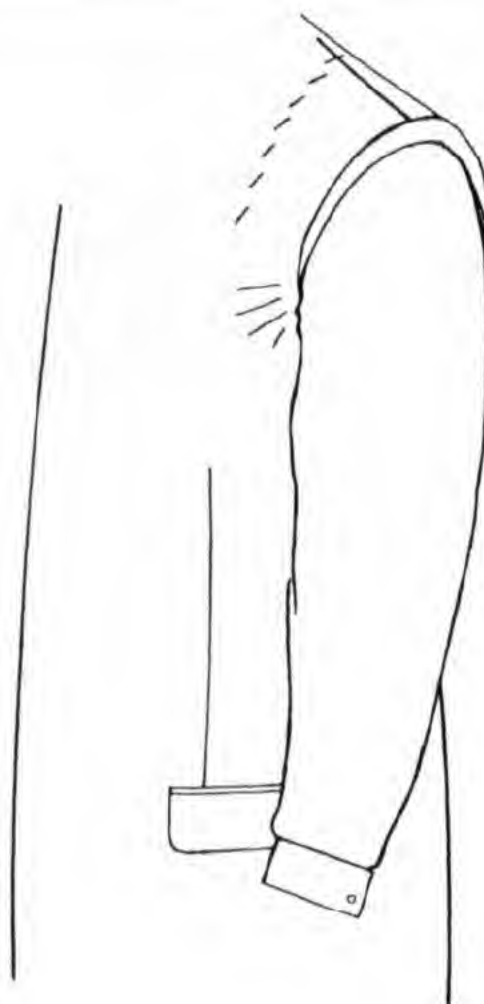


With the arm still resting naturally at the client's side, chalkmark on the hip-level pocket, a line indicating the natural placement of the arm. This chalkmark will be used in setting the sleeve to fall either forward or backward, in accordance with the position of the client's arm.

Remove the basting at the back and shoulder seams, and make whatever adjustments are necessary.

The back seams will not be sewn until after the facing is attached.

The shoulder seams will be sewn after the body of the jacket has been lined.



Give special attention to the armhole. With the client's arm resting comfortably at his side, see if there is any wrinkling or pulling in the front notch area of the armhole. If there is, the jacket fabric must be trimmed in this area (a small amount at a time).

Check the shoulder width! If the cutting edge at the top of the shoulder extends out well beyond the shoulder edge, the fabric may need trimming. As a guide, place a ruler at the bicep and let it extend up towards the shoulder. If the fabric extends out beyond the ruler at the shoulder, the jacket shoulder is too wide and should be trimmed before attaching the shoulder pad.

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## THE FACING

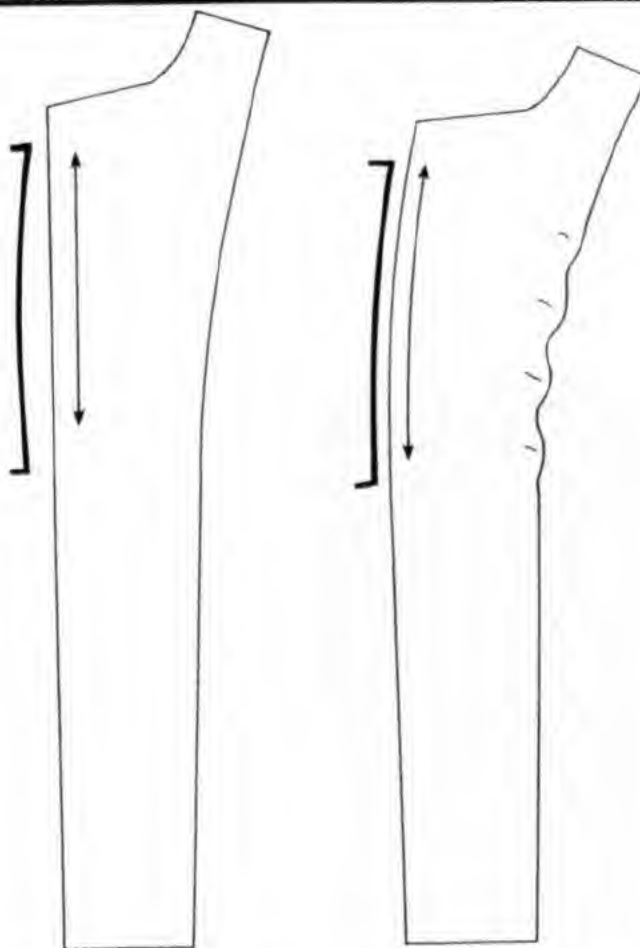
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The facing plays a prominent role in the finished jacket. It must be carefully cut and shaped, and laid gracefully over the lapel, with enough ease to allow the lapel to roll freely. If the grain is off, or the ease is missing, there will be either ripples or strain on the front of the jacket.

The facing can be attached to the jacket either by hand or by machine. (Read through both procedures and decide which one you would like to learn first.) The difference in the amount of time it takes to complete either method does not seem to be significant, although one might expect this to be the case. The

hand application of the facing seems to require a "feel" for the fabric—more confidence in one's ability to control the fabric.

Many tailors use the hand application exclusively, because of the complete control it affords. Others, use it only for a plaid or striped fabric, where matching the design requires precision. There are also tailors who consider the hand application inferior to the machine application, because a facing seam, stitched by machine, may be a more definite line, and more secure than one stitched by hand. You decide which method to use.



The outer edge of the facing, which you have cut using the revised facing pattern (page 14), is a straight line, and, therefore, not shaped to match the front of the jacket. Before attaching the facing to the jacket, it will be necessary to steam press the lapel area of the facing into a curve which matches that of the jacket lapel.

If, in the beginning, you hesitate to trust your eye to match the curve of lapel and facing,

create a guideline for yourself by drawing the lapel curve on a piece of paper and pinning the paper to your ironing board.

Place the raw edge of the lapel area of the facing along the guideline. Rippling will appear at the center, inner edge of the facing, if we shrink these ripples away, the front edge of the facing will maintain the curve we have given it.



Here is where the flexibility of natural fibers can be appreciated. On the wrong side of the fabric, and using steam liberally, iron from the outer edge of the lapel in, using progressively smaller arcs. Depending on your fabric, this will require more or less effort; worsteds being a greater challenge than more loosely woven fibers.

The whole purpose of this effort is to maintain the straight of the grain at the lapel edge.



The benefit of this is obvious in a striped or plaid fabric, since it allows the pattern to continue uninterrupted from the top to bottom of the lapel. Less obvious, but no less important, is the fact that having the strongest grain at the outer edge of the lapel will be a safeguard against stretching and rippling in this area.

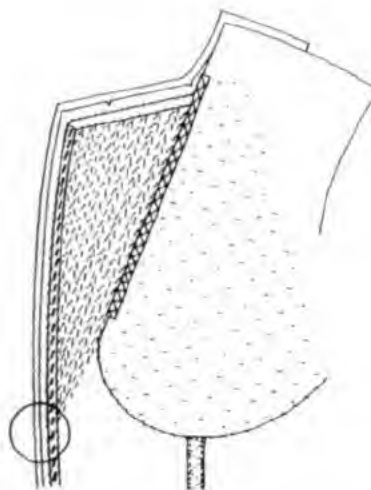
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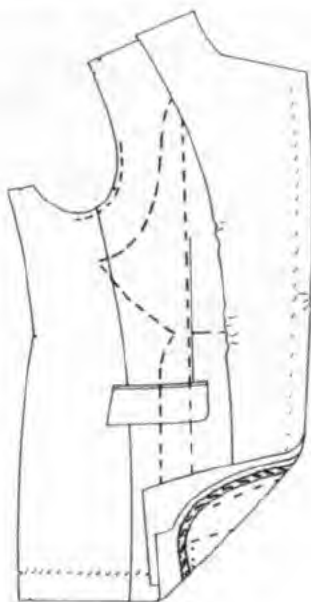
## ATTACHING FACING BY MACHINE

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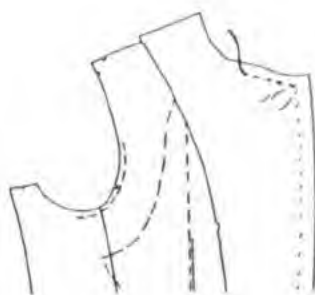
Place the right side of the facing to the right side of the jacket front, allowing  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) facing to extend beyond the jacket at the top of the lapel and down the front of the jacket. Beginning at the tip of the lapel, baste down through the center of the tape, attaching the facing to the jacket. Just below the bottom of the roll line, place about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) ease in the facing to accommodate the roll of the lapel. Tack the ease into the tape so that it will remain where you've placed it.

If the front of the jacket is straight at the hem, continue basting the tape to the bottom of the jacket.

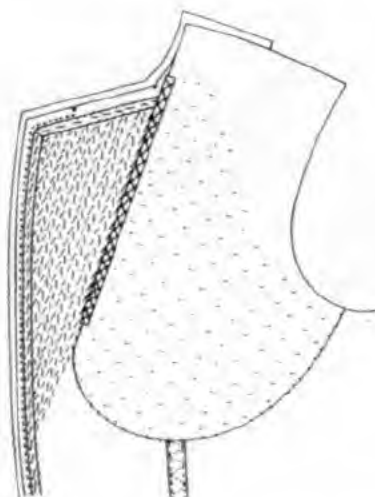




If the front of the jacket curves in at the hem, the facing should be basted to the curve using a slightly different technique. Since this area may be inclined to curl outwards, away from the body, in the finished jacket, roll the bottom of the jacket towards the facing as you baste. This will shorten the facing slightly, and ensure that in the finished jacket the curved edge will incline gently towards the body, rather than curling outwards.



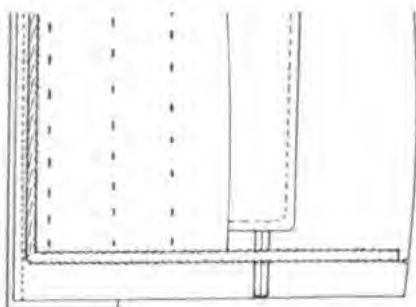
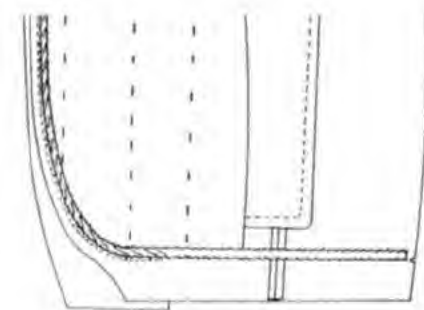
The tip of the lapel in the finished jacket should also incline comfortably towards the body, rather than curling upwards. For that reason, a small bubble of ease is now placed in the facing at the tip of the lapel. This will prevent the possibility of the facing pulling the lapel tip forward. At the top of the lapel, lower the facing slightly to create the ease, about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm). When the slight excess of fabric is visible at the lapel tip, baste across the lapel, from the tip to just beyond the collar notch.



Machine stitch from the collar notch to the bottom of the jacket, using the tape as a guideline. Stitch about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm) beyond the tape, in the seam allowance.

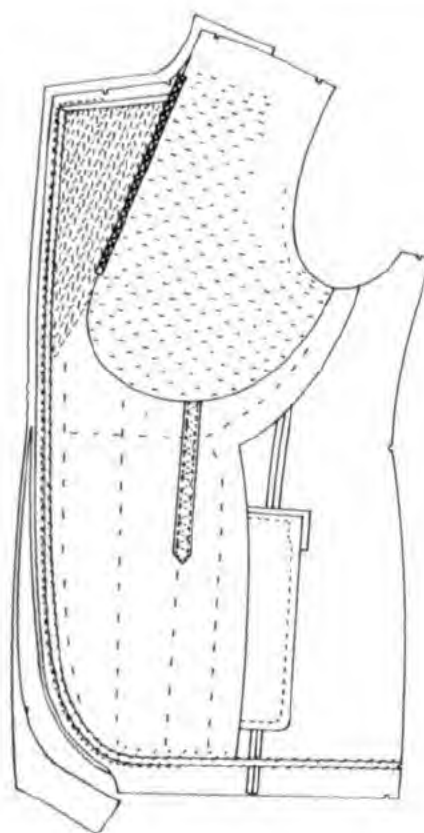


For a good point at the tip of the lapel, take one or two stitches on the diagonal as you turn. A sharp pivot at the tip will result in a misshapen, lumpy lapel tip, because there will not be enough room for the seam allowance to settle in.

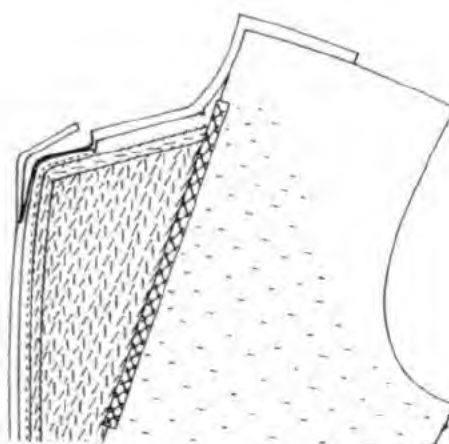


If the front of the jacket is rounded at the hem, stitch with the curve to the end of the facing.

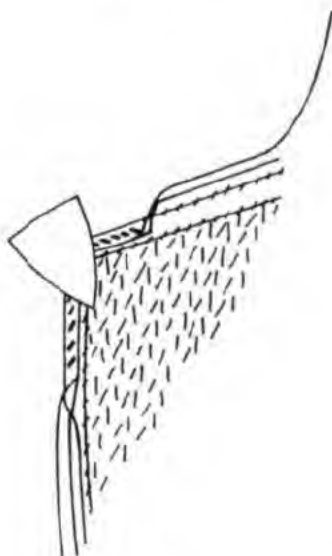
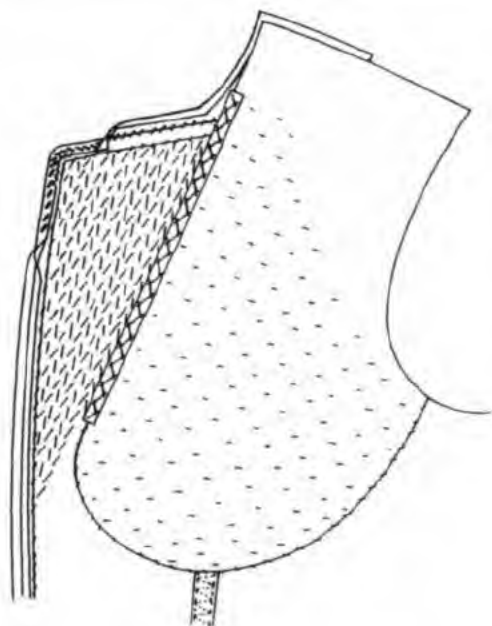
If the front of the jacket is straight at the hem, stitch down to the bottom edge.



Remove the basting, and layer the seam allowances. From the bottom of the jacket to the tip of the lapel, trim the jacket seam allowance to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) and the facing to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm).

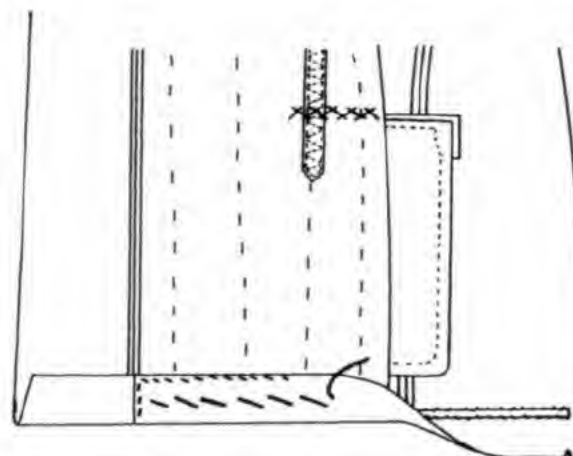
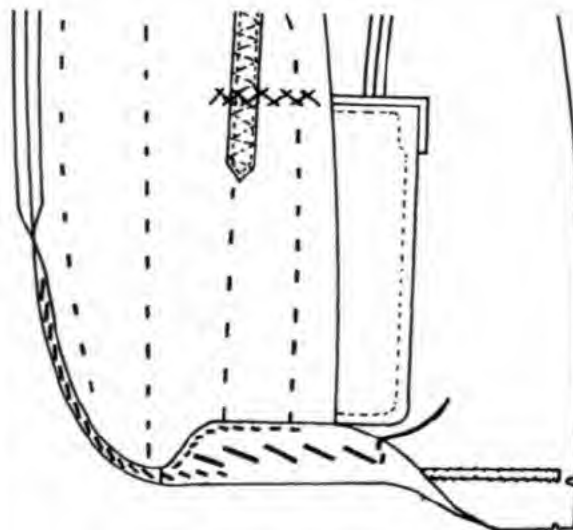


From the collar notch and around the lapel tip, trim a bit closer. Leave about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) jacket seam allowance and  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) facing. Press the facing seam open.



The tip of the lapel will be flatter if the seam allowance inside is controlled and evenly distributed. To accomplish this, both seam allowances are drawn onto the tape at the lapel tip, one at a time. A shirring thread is first run through the seam allowance and pulled. The seam allowance is then tacked into the tape, using silk thread. These stitches should not be visible on the right side of the fabric.

The tip of the lapel is then pressed flat.

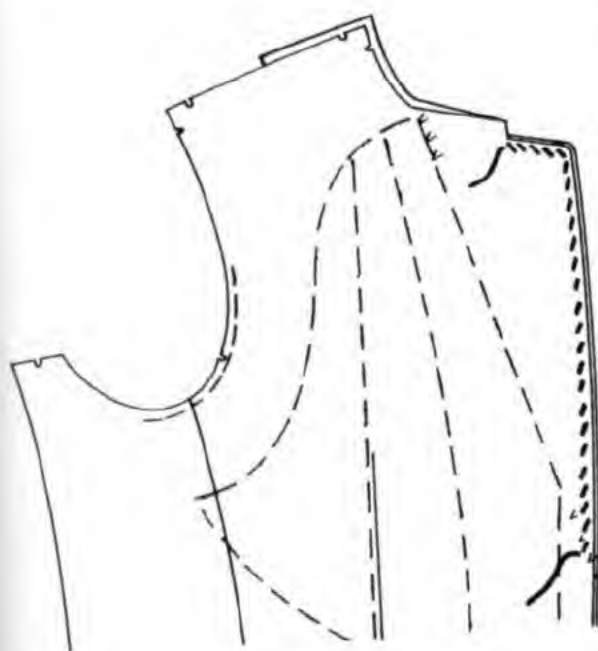


If the front of the jacket is rounded at the hem, the seam allowance at the curve is also tacked into the tape.

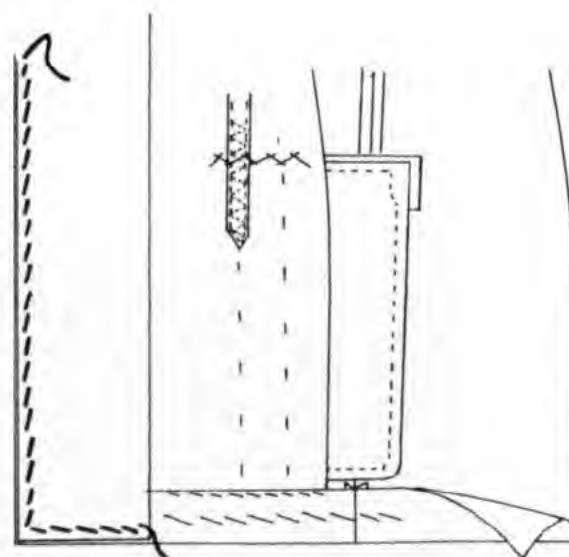
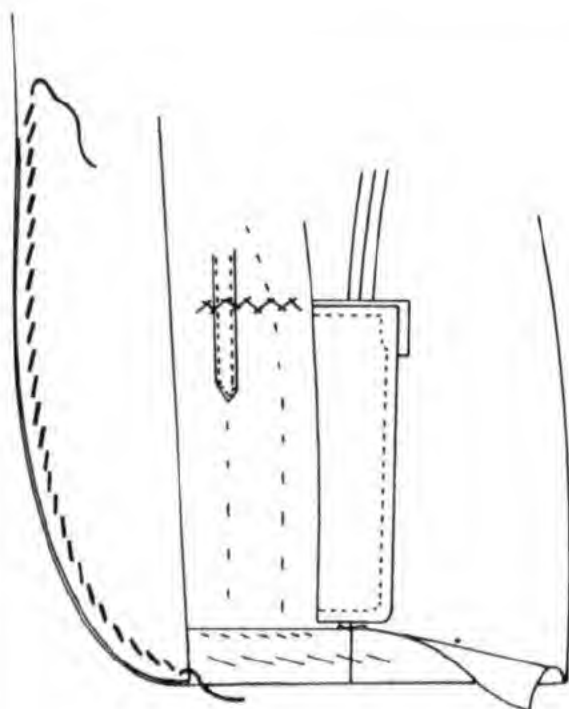
If the front of the jacket is straight at the hem, the facing seam allowance is tacked into itself at the hem.

The hem, on both straight and rounded jackets fronts, is now basted up with large diagonal stitches, and then stitched into the canvas with a smaller diagonal stitch. (We'll leave the hem beyond the canvas for the moment.)



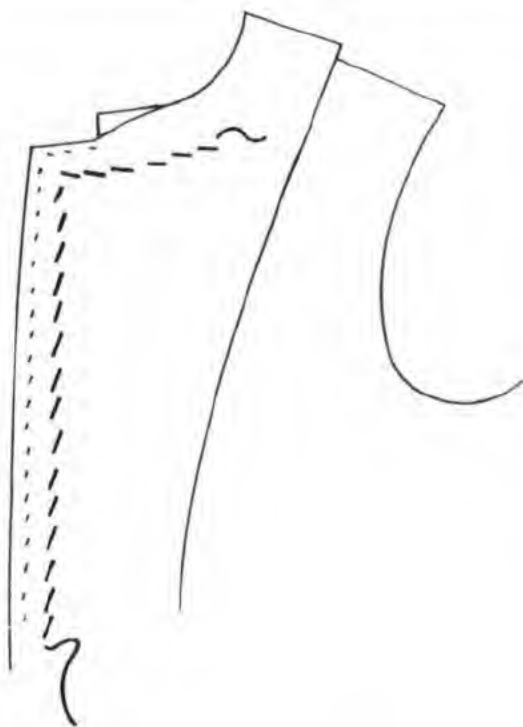


Working from the jacket side, baste from the bottom of the roll line, up and across to the collar notch or from the collar notch down (depending on which hand you sew with and which side of the jacket you are preparing). As you baste, bring the facing seam to the jacket side, so that it will not be seen when the jacket is worn.

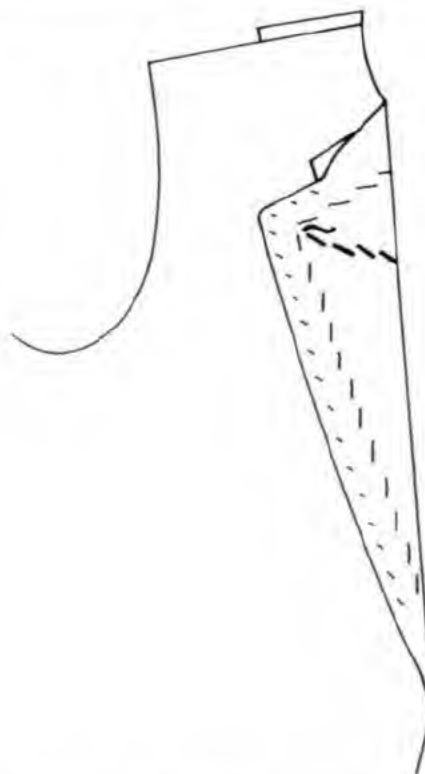


From the bottom of the lapel to the hem, the basting is done on the facing side, and the seam is drawn towards the facing side so that it will not be visible when the jacket is worn.

On a jacket with a straight front, make sure that the facing is turned up so that it is a bit shorter than the jacket, and will not be seen from the outside.



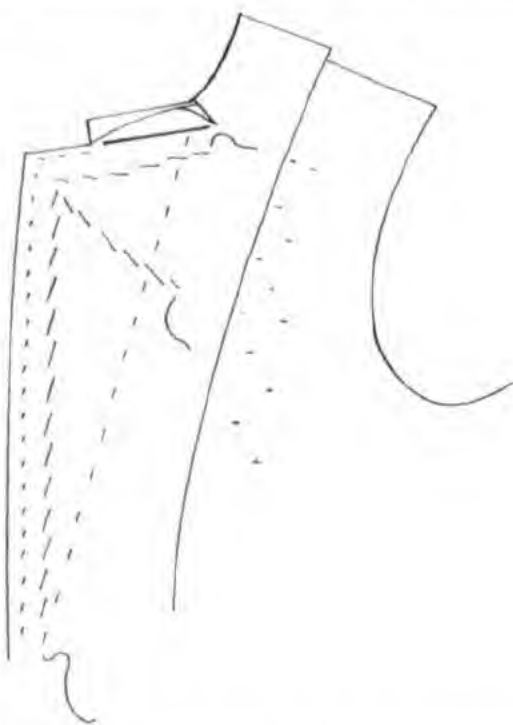
On the facing side, baste up from the bottom of the roll line once more and continue across, about 1" (2.5 cm) below the top of the tape. These stitches are about 1/2" (1.3 cm) long and are placed comfortably, without pulling or tautness.



Baste on the diagonal from the tip of the lapel, in towards the roll line.

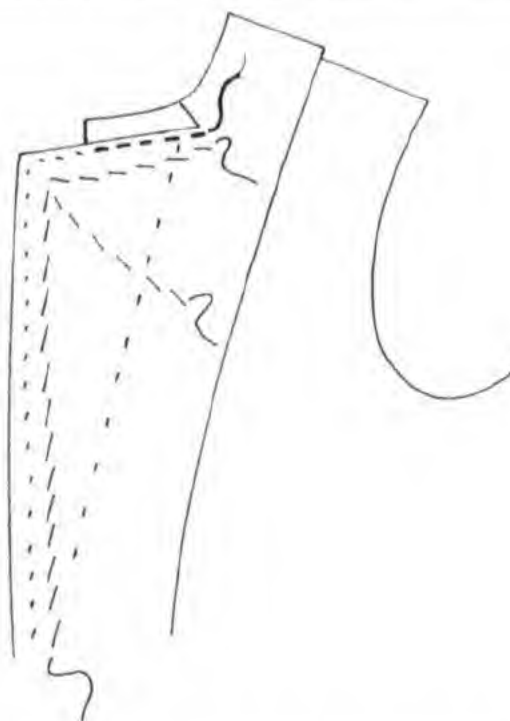


From the jacket side, baste the length of the roll line, catching the facing underneath.



Chalkmark a straight line across the top of the lapel from the collar notch to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) past the roll line. The top of the tape should be directly under this chalkline.

Slash the facing (not the jacket) from the neck edge to this  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) point.



Fold the facing along the chalkline and baste it in place, just covering the tape underneath. Trim, if necessary before folding.

Press the top of the lapel and slip stitch from the collar notch to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) past the roll line. The facing is now pressed before continuing (see illustration on page 107).

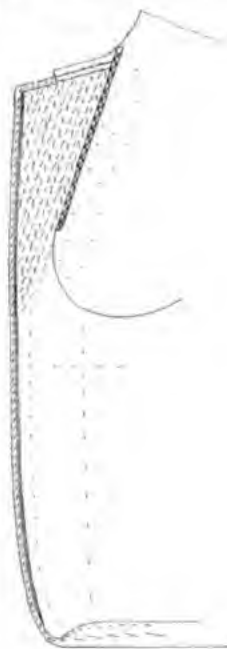
## ATTACHING FACING BY HAND

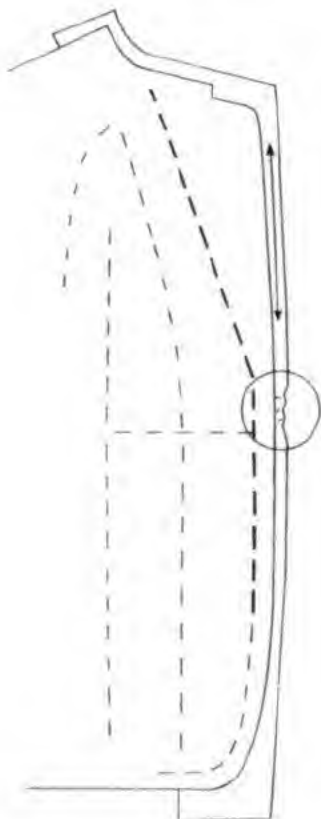
To attach the facing by hand, the seam allowance at the outer edge of the lapel and down the front of the jacket should be trimmed to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm). The seam allowance from the tip of the lapel to the collar notch should be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm).

Snip the collar notch "almost" to the tape, and using the edge of the tape as a foldline, begin stitching the seam allowance onto the tape. Use a diagonal stitch, with silk finishing thread, catching the tape and the canvas.

Be gentle with the fabric. The seam allowance should simply fold onto the tape, and not be pulled tightly.

The hem is also folded up, using the tape as a guide, and diagonal-stitched into the canvas.



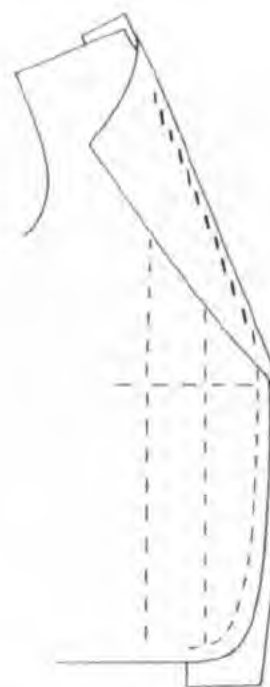


Place the wrong side of the facing (which has been steam pressed into shape, page 107) to the wrong side of the jacket front, leaving a generous  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) of facing visible around the outer edge of the jacket. Baste the facing and the jacket together, following the stitches that mark the length of the roll line, and then down the front edge of the jacket. At the bottom of the roll line, place  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) ease in the facing to facilitate the roll of the lapel.

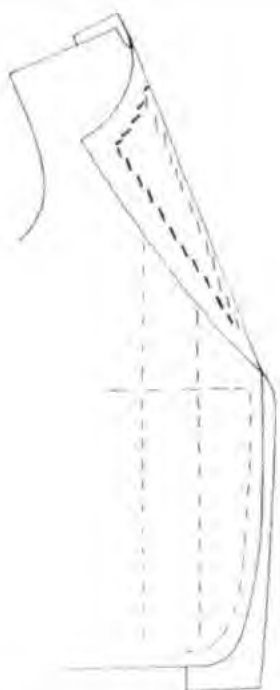
If your jacket is straight at the hem, continue basting down the entire front. If your jacket curves in at the hem (as illustrated), stop basting about 8" (20.3 cm) or so from the bottom.



Jackets which are shaped at the bottom front will be inclined to curl outwards, away from the body, unless the facing is manipulated to prevent this. If the bottom edge of the jacket is curled inwards, and basted to the facing while held in this position, the finished jacket will incline gently towards the body at the front edge.



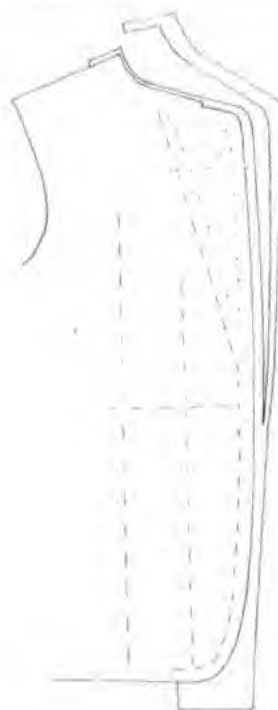
With the lapel rolled in the position it will take in the finished jacket, baste a row of diagonal stitches, parallel to the roll line.



Baste across the top of the lapel, and down to the bottom of the roll line, keeping the stitches about 1" (2.5 cm) away from the edge of the jacket lapel.



With the lapel still rolled, baste a diagonal line of stitches from the tip of the lapel basting stitches, to just past the roll line.

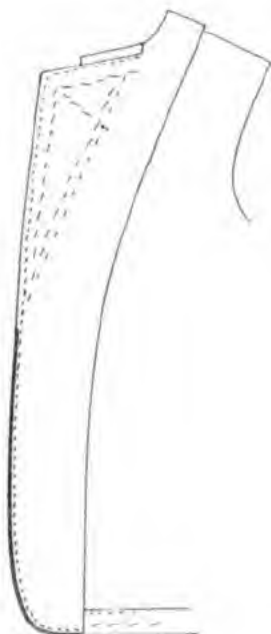


Trim facing seam allowance to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) from collar notch to the bottom of the jacket. The facing from collar notch to shoulder is just about even with the jacket.



On the facing, chalkmark a line which extends from the collar notch to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) past the roll line. The chalkline is exactly where the top of the tape is on the jacket. This line is called the *gorge line*.

Snip the facing to a point on the gorge line  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) past the roll line.



Fold and baste the facing seam allowance along the gorge line and down the front of the lapel. Allow facing to extend about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm) beyond the jacket lapel, so that the facing seam will not be visible when the jacket is worn.

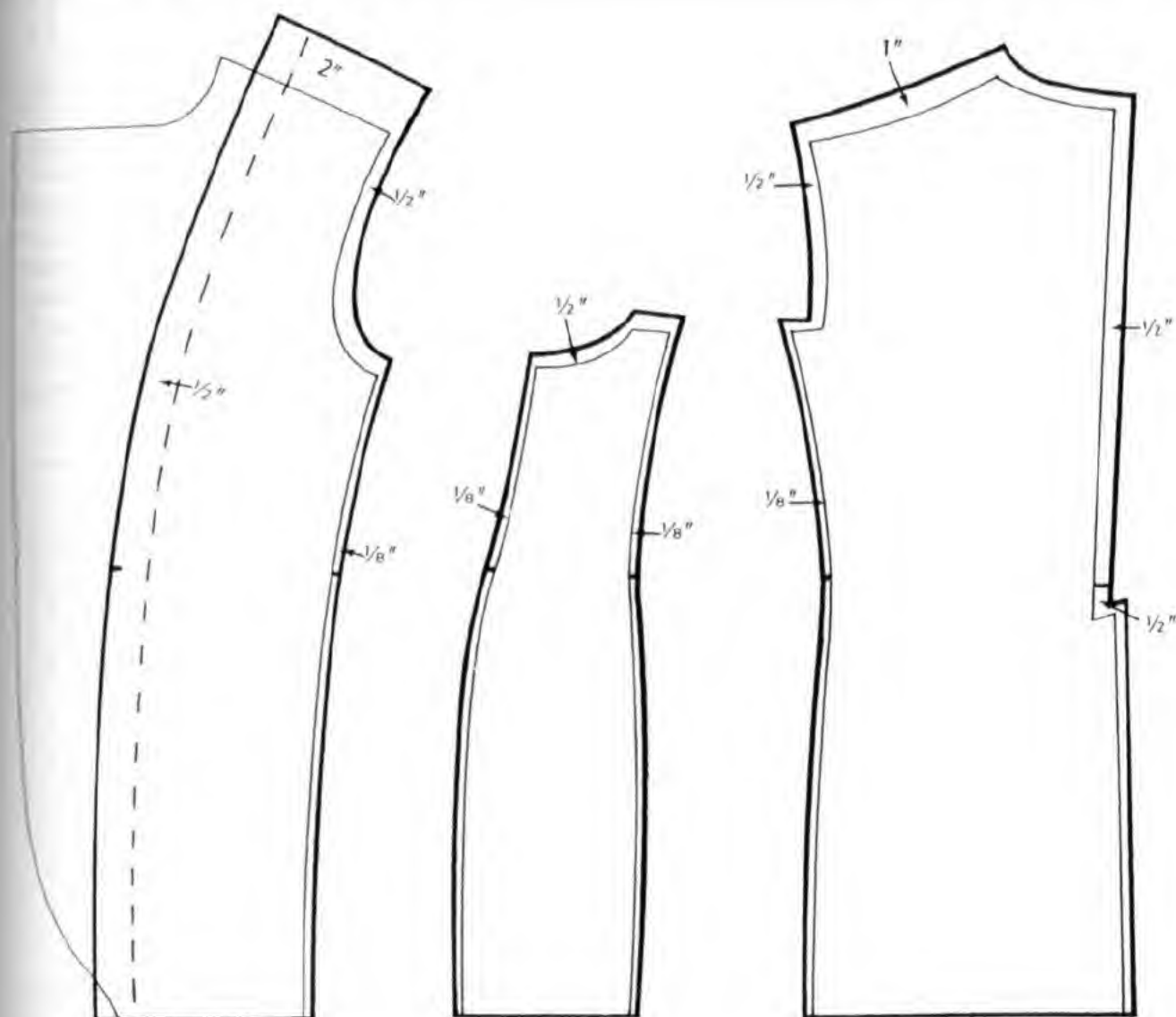
The facing seam, from the bottom of the roll line to the bottom of the jacket, should not be visible on the right side of the jacket. Therefore, as you baste on the facing side in this area, allow about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm) of the jacket to extend beyond the facing.



Using silk finishing thread, slipstitch along the edge of the facing seam. The stitches should be quite small, and carefully placed, so that they are not visible from the outside. The facing should now be pressed (page 107).



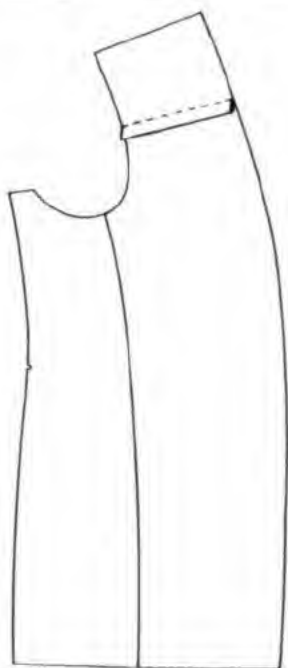
# THE LINING



The purpose of a lining is to hide all the threads and seams and layers of padding that have gone into the jacket's construction to this point. It also helps in sliding the jacket on and off without difficulty, and feels much better through a shirt than wool canvas does.

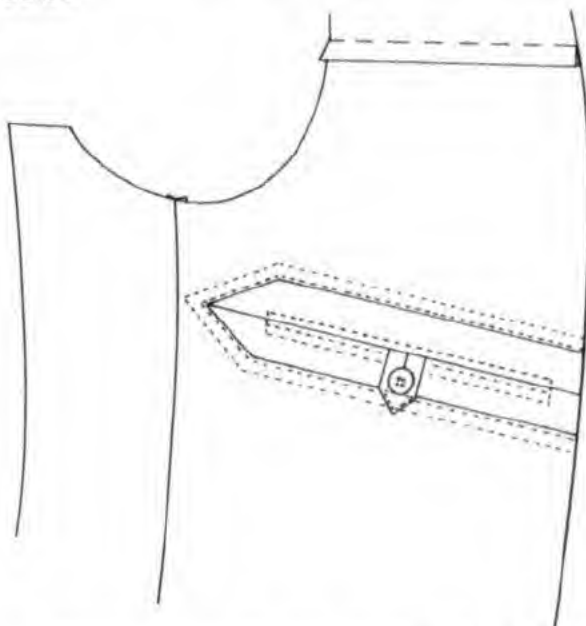
The lining should be cut slightly larger than the jacket, in both length and width, even though it is placed inside. The constant pulling and friction which the lining is subject to will cause tears in the lining fabric if there is not sufficient living ease.

Using the front, back and side panel pattern pieces, cut the lining larger than the pattern by the amount indicated in these illustrations. The broken line on the jacket front pattern piece represents the point to which the facing extends. Draw this line on your jacket front pattern so that you will be able to mark the lining to overlap the facing by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm).

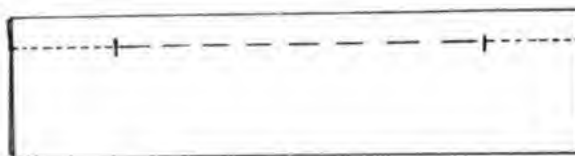


Machine-stitch the front and side panels of the lining together, and press the seams open.

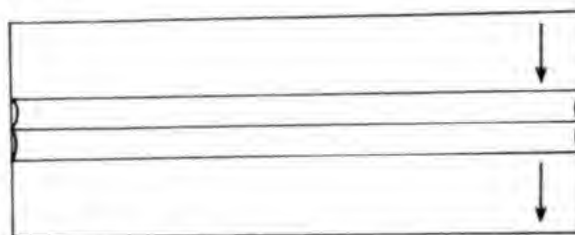
We have allowed 2" (5 cm) of lining above the pattern at the shoulder front, 1" (2.5 cm) of which we'll now use to create a pleat in the front lining at mid-armhole level. The pleat is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) deep and is basted towards the right side of the lining. Its purpose is to reduce the pressure on the lining caused by the lining pocket.



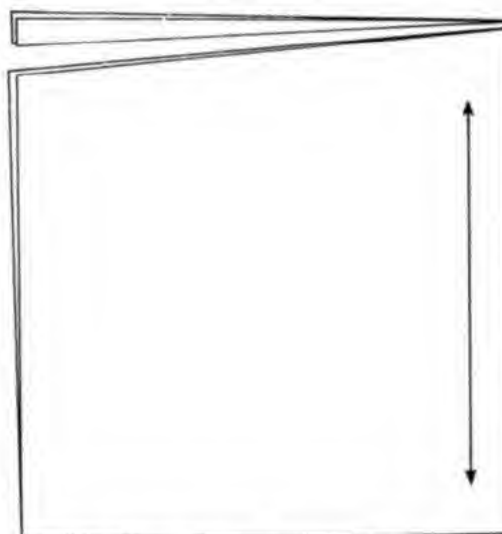
There are usually two pockets in the front lining of a man's tailored jacket, one on either side. They may be placed at breast level or at hip level. The pocket styles vary. Here we show a lining pocket known as the *Barcelona*.



The front of the pocket is made from two pieces of garment fabric,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) by 8" (20.3 cm), nap down. With right sides touching, machine-stitch the pieces together, lengthwise using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) seam allowance. Begin and end the seam with a permanent-length machine-stitch, but for 5" (12.7 cm) at the center of the seam use a larger, basting stitch. Tack well at the beginning and end of the basting stitch. We will eventually be removing the stitches from the 5" (12.7 cm) area to open the completed pocket.



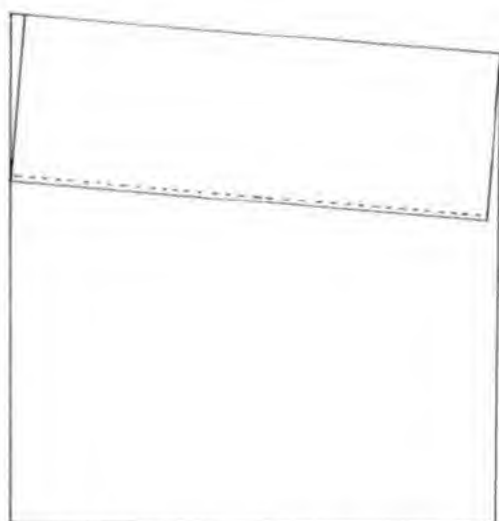
Press the seam open.



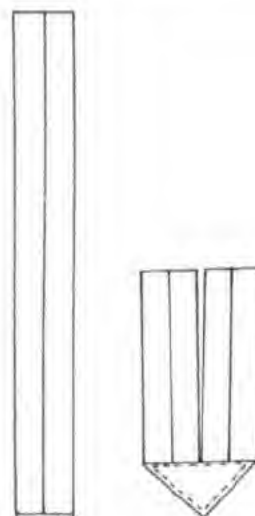
Cut two pieces of pocketing fabric, straight grain, 7" (17.8 cm) by 7" (17.8 cm) for the inside of the pocket. Cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) diagonal strip from the top of each piece. The pocket shown here is designed on a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) slant. Therefore, the inside pocketing must be cut at a slant in order to fall straight after construction. If you choose to eliminate the slant in your pocket design, then eliminate the slant at the top of the pocketing also.



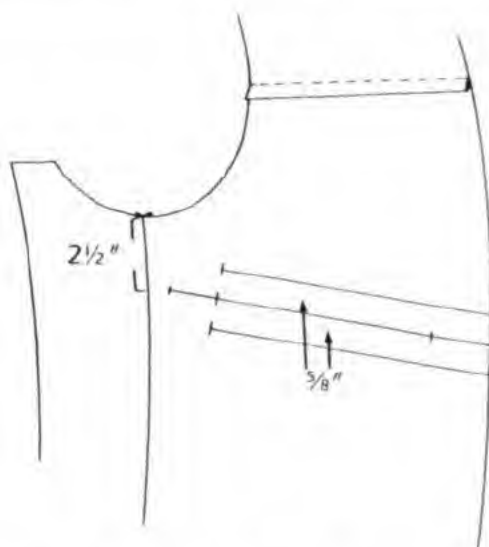
One of the pieces of inside pocketing will be visible when the pocket is being used. Therefore, a piece of facing will be needed to cover the top of that pocketing piece. Cut the facing from lining fabric about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) by 7" (17.8 cm) and press up a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) hem on one side.



Topstitch the folded edge to the top of one of the pocketing pieces. *Do not* be concerned with the slanted side edges—you'll trim them away later.



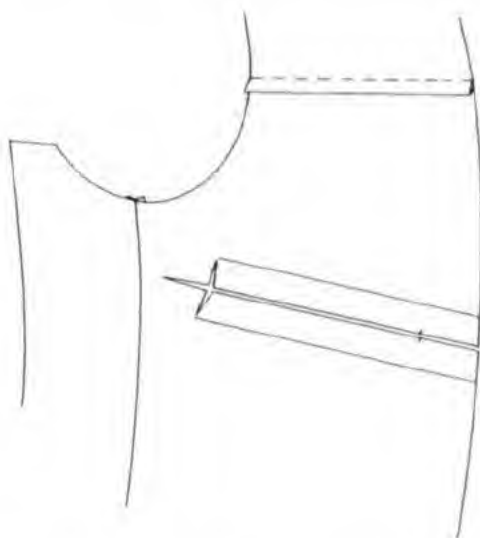
The buttonhole tab is made from a strip of lining fabric, straight grain,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " (8.9 cm). Sew a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam in the strip and press the seam allowance open. Turn and press the seam to the center of the strip. Fold the strip into an arrow shape, and topstitch the point.



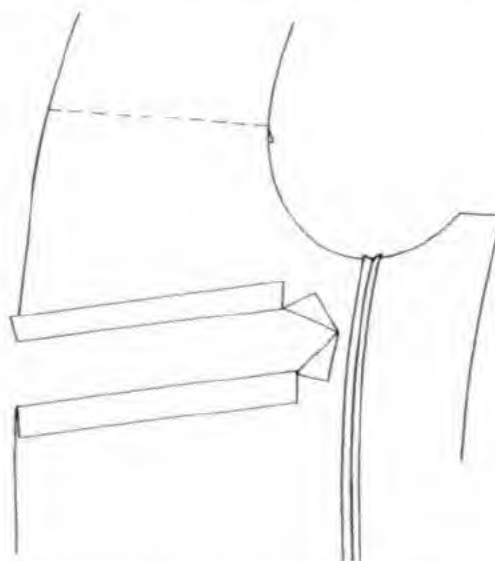
On the right side of the front lining, the pocket placement line is drawn on a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) slant, the higher end of which falls about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) below the cutting edge of the lining underarm.

Draw the pocket placement line 7" (17.8 cm) long from the front edge of the lining towards the side panel seam. From the center of the line, mark off a 5" (12.7 cm) span to represent the actual pocket opening.

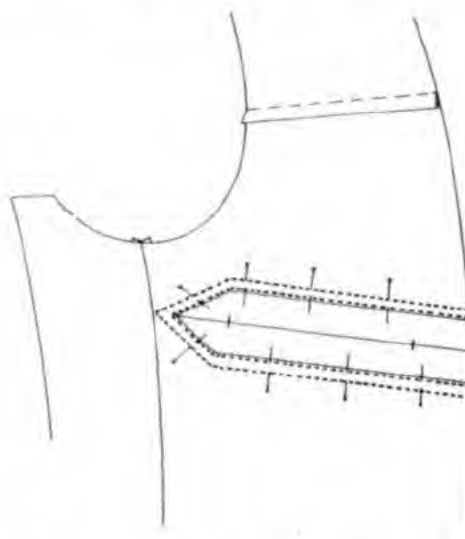
Draw two parallel lines, 6" (15.2 cm) long, beginning at the lining front edge,  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) above and below the pocket placement line. (If you would prefer a narrower pocket front, use a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) measurement.)



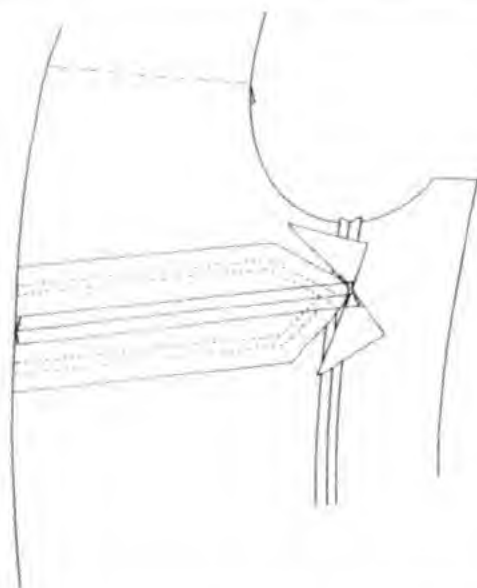
Slash the pocket placement line; and then above and below the ends of the two parallel lines.



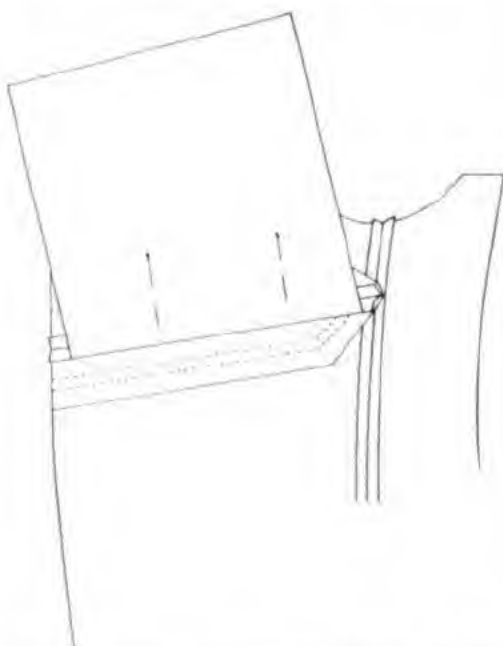
Fold the lining along the 6" (15.2 cm) lines and then diagonally at the ends. Press the lining flaps towards the wrong side.



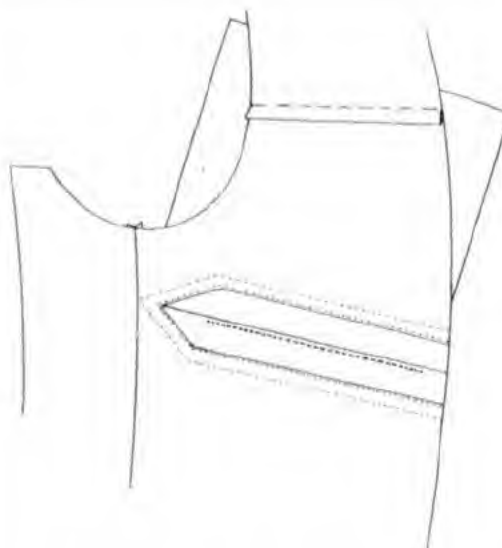
In the arrow-shaped opening created by the folded lining, place the garment fabric pocket front. The seam should run down the center of the opening. Topstitch a double row on the lining, attaching garment fabric pocket front to the lining. Chalkmark the ends of the 5" (12.7 cm) pocket opening area at the center of the garment fabric seam.



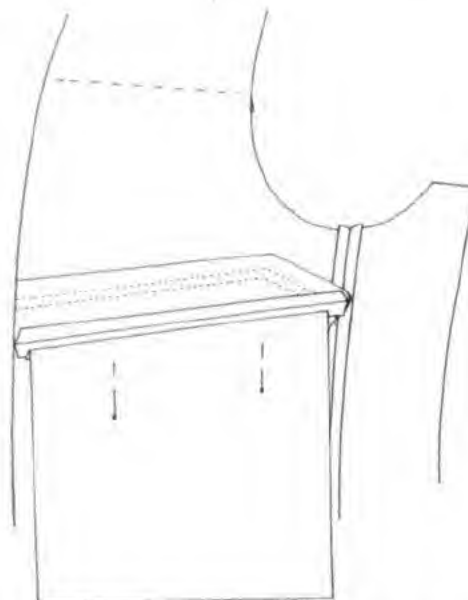
On the wrong side, trim away the excess garment fabric at the point of the arrow.



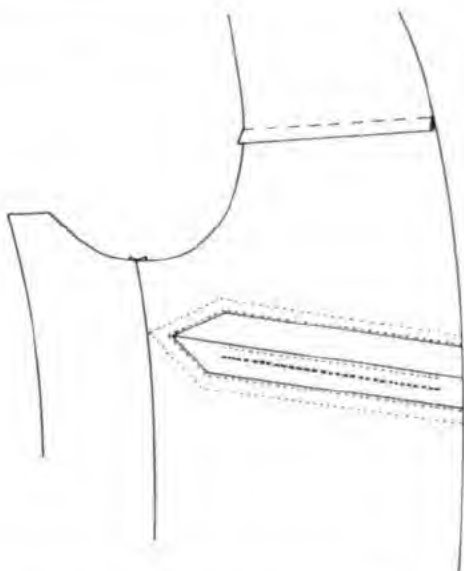
Pin the unfaced pocketing piece to the wrong side of the lining. The slanted edge of the pocketing should be flush with the bottom seam allowance of the garment fabric pocket front.



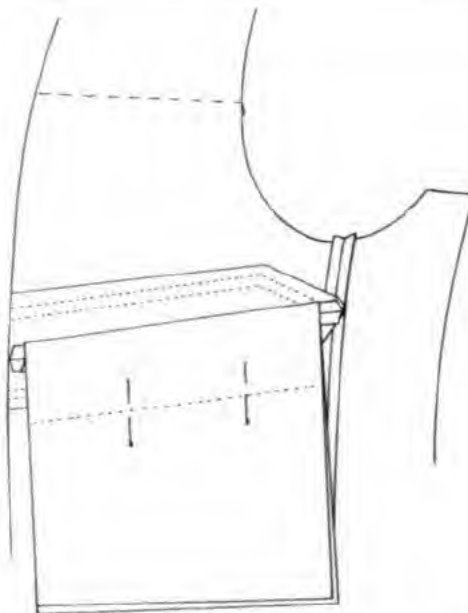
On the right side, machine-stitch just below the garment fabric seam, from beginning to end of the 5" (12.7 cm) pocket opening. With this stitchline you will be catching the pocketing which is on the wrong side.



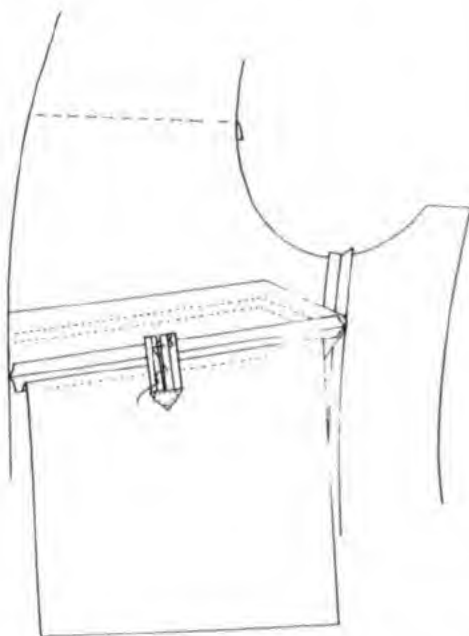
On the wrong side of the lining, pull down the pocketing and thumbnail press its seam. Pin the pocketing in place.



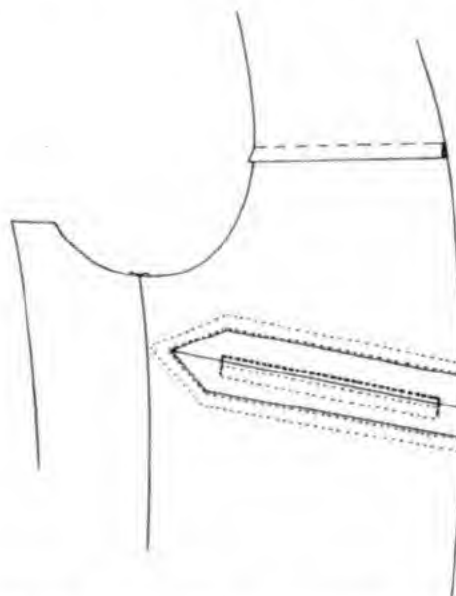
On the right side, machine-stitch a second row about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) below the first, catching the pocketing again.



Place the second pocketing piece (the one that has been faced) on top of the first. The top edge of the pocketing should be flush with the top seam allowance of the pocket front.

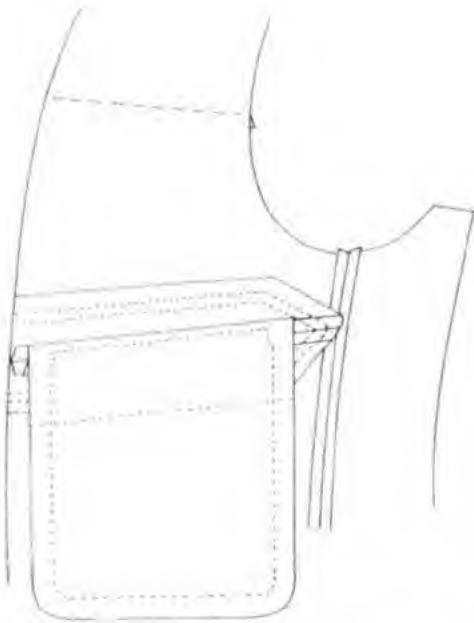


Baste the buttonhole tab at the center of the 5" (12.7 cm) pocket opening on the wrong side. The distance from the garment fabric seam to the horizontal stitchline on the tab should be about  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm). This buttonhole is for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) button.

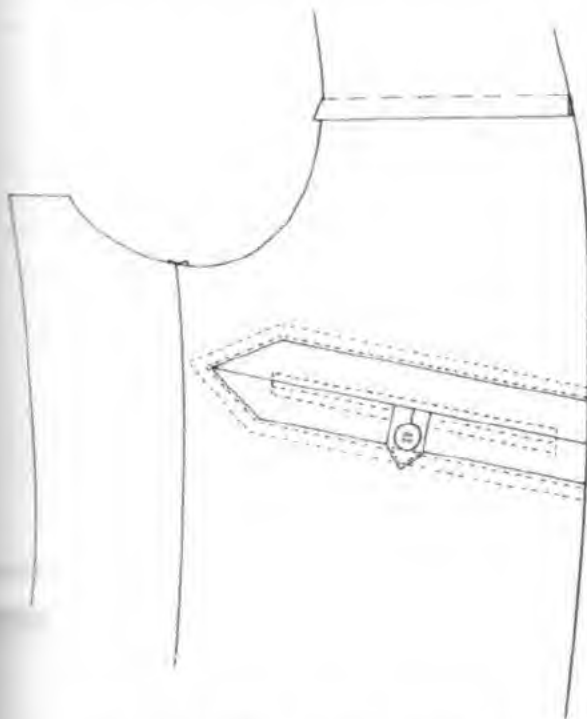


On the right side, machine-stitch just above the garment fabric seam, catching the pocketing and the buttonhole tab. Tack well vertically at either end of the 5" (12.7 cm) pocket opening.





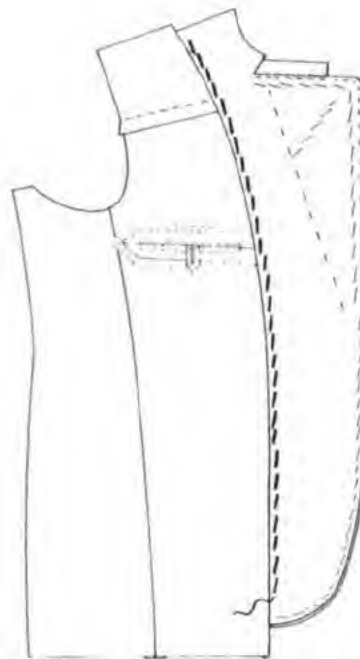
Sew the two pocketing pieces together. Trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm).



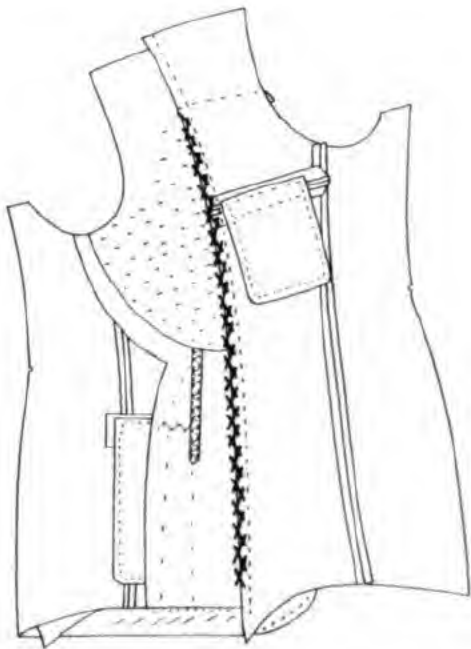
Slit the garment fabric seam from beginning to end of the 5" (12.7 cm) pocket opening area, and pull the buttonhole tab to the outside. When the jacket is completely finished and pressed, a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) button is sewn on the pocket front, and the *Barcelona* pocket is complete.



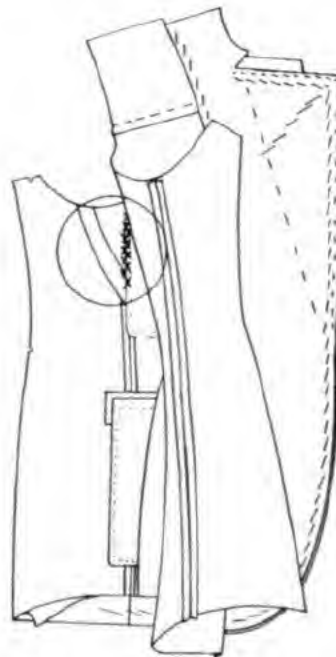
With the pocket complete, attach the front lining to the facing, using a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam allowance. Stitch to just past the top of the jacket hem. The pleat in the lining faces downwards. Trim away the garment fabric bulk in the seam allowance.



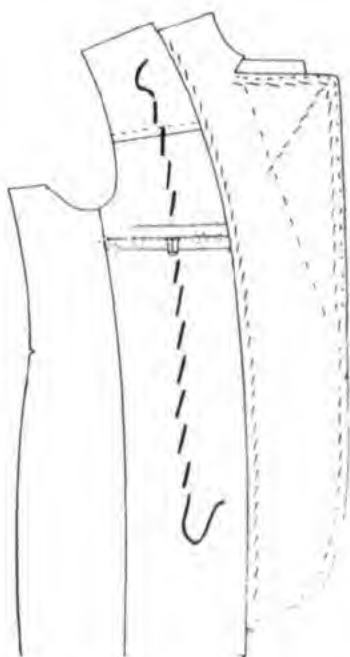
With the seam allowance towards the lining, baste along the edge of the facing, attaching the facing into the canvas.



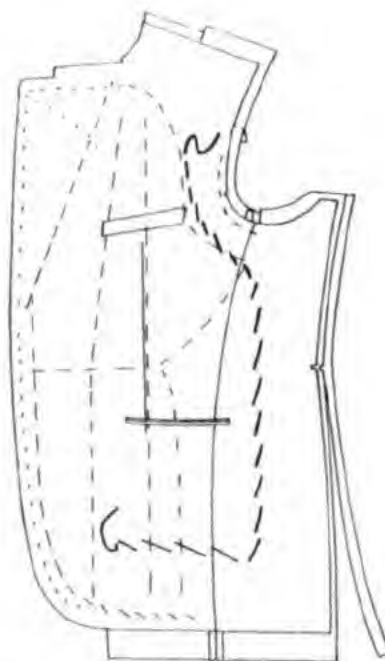
Beginning about 4" (10.2 cm) below the shoulder, and continuing to just above the hem, cross-stitch the lining and facing seam allowance into the canvas.



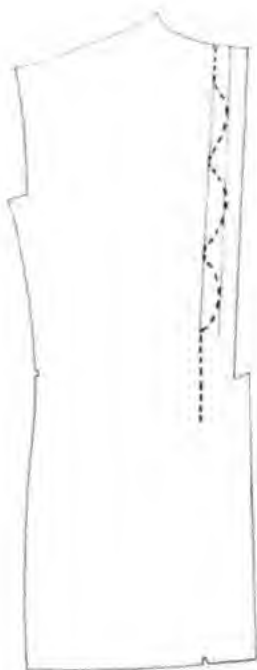
Turn the lining back once more, and cross-stitch the seam allowance of the lining pocket into the canvas. We're simply working our way across the lining, securing it in place.



With the lining back in place, baste down through the center of the front lining panel, catching the canvas. Stop well above the hem.



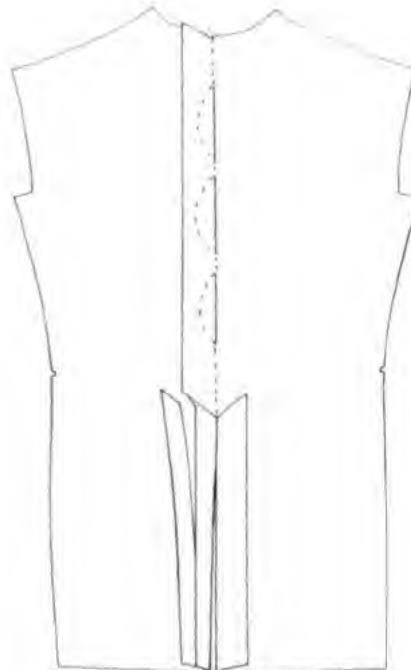
From the right side of the jacket, baste through, catching the lining. Begin at about center armhole level, 3" (7.6 cm) in from the edge. Baste down the length of the side panel and then across the jacket, about 5" (12.7 cm) above the hem fold.



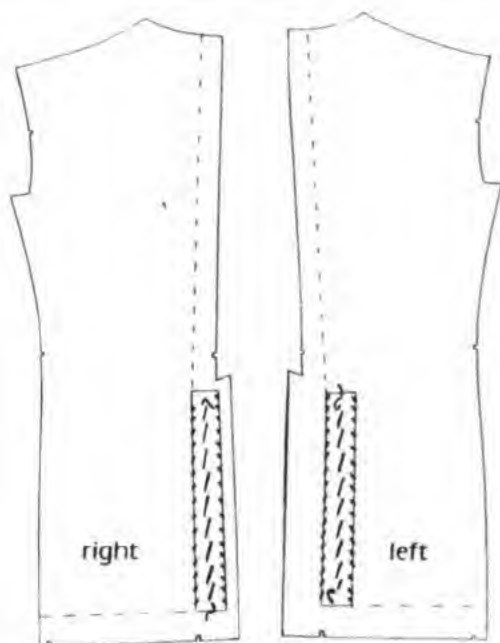
To afford added ease in the back lining, the seam at the center back is sewn in a scalloped fashion. This creates a controlled pleat which will open out only when required to by the body's movement. The seamline begins at the lining neck edge, at what was the seamline on the jacket pattern.

Sew down approximately 2" (5 cm) and then begin a series of three or four scallops, about 3" (7.6 cm) in length each, extending back the depth of your jacket seam allowance. The 1/2" (1.3 cm) extra lining which we added at center back serves simply as seam allowance for the inner edges of the scallops. The pleats are needed only above the waist.

The stitchline ends about 1" (2.5 cm) below the top of the lining vent. If there is no vent, the stitchline below the waist continues along the jacket seam allowance.



Above the vent, press the center back lining seam allowance to the left. Slash the top of the right vent almost to the stitchline. Trim away 1" (2.5 cm) lengthwise from the left vent.



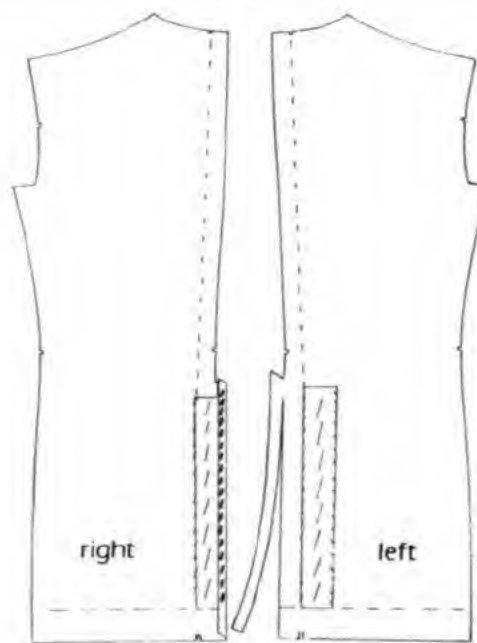
Before stitching the jacket center back seam, we'll reinforce the vent area with cross-grain strips of pocketing, about 2" (5 cm) wide, from the top of the vent to the hem foldline. Draw a chalkline from the bottom of the center back stitchline to the vent notch at the bottom of the jacket. Use the chalkline as a guide for the placement of the pocketing reinforcement pieces.

Because the left side of the vent will fold and the right side will lie flat in the finished jacket, the pocketing pieces are placed in slightly different positions on either side, to accommodate that difference. (You will note that left and right sides of the jacket are reversed in the illustrations, since we are viewing the jacket from the inside.)

On the right side of the jacket back, place the reinforcement on the vent extension, flush with the chalkline. Leave 1/2" (1.3 cm) of the garment fabric visible at the edge.

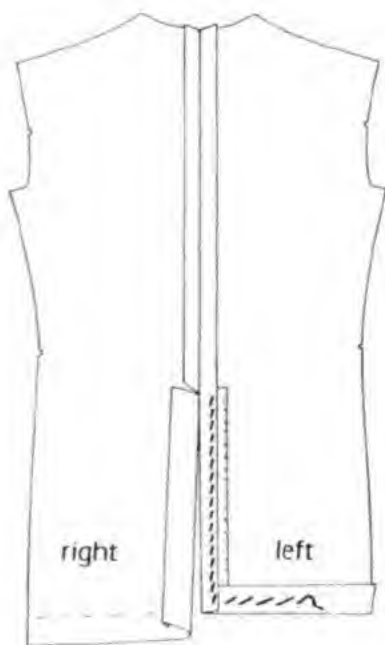
On the left side of the jacket back, the reinforcement is placed, not on the vent extension, but directly to the right of it, flush with the vent chalkline.

Baste the reinforcement pieces in place and slip-stitch the sides using silk finishing thread. The stitches should not be visible on the right side of the garment fabric.



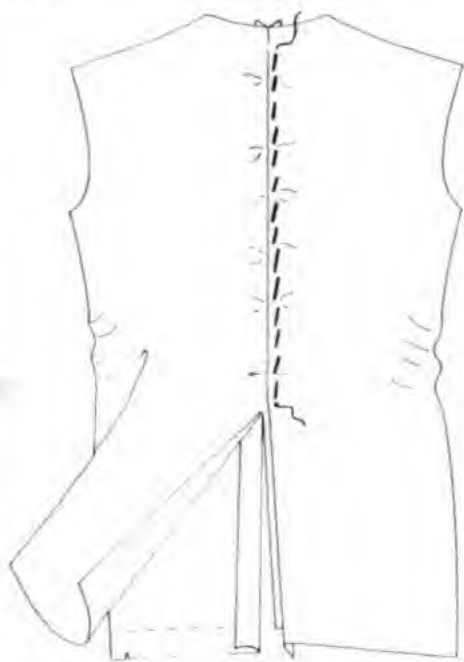
On the right vent, fold over the 1/2" (1.3 cm) of garment fabric at the vent edge, and diagonal stitch it in place. The stitches should not show through on the right side.

Trim away the left vent extension completely, so that the seam allowance down the center back is even from top to bottom.

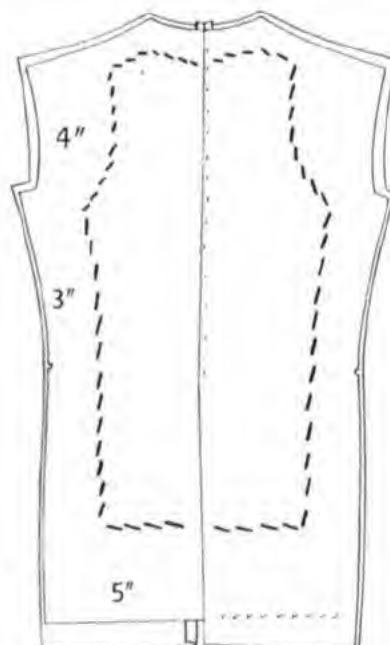


Machine-stitch the center back seam to 1" (2.5 cm) below the top of the vent. At the top of the right vent, slash the garment fabric almost to the stitchline.

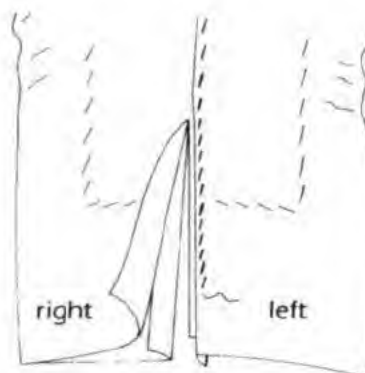
On the left side of the jacket, baste up about half the hem, leaving enough room for you to sew the side seams without obstruction later on.



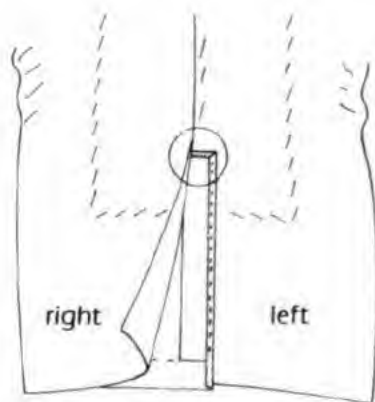
With wrong sides touching, place the lining and jacket backs together, matching waistline notches. There will be 1/2" (1.3 cm) of lining above the jacket neck edge. Baste down the center back seam from the neck edge to the vent opening.



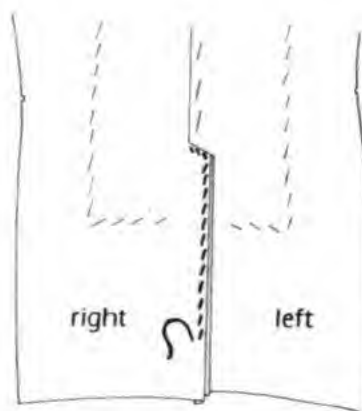
From the right side, baste around the back of the jacket, catching the lining. The illustration shows the approximate distance the basting stitches should remain from the edge of the jacket, in order not to interfere with work still to be done.



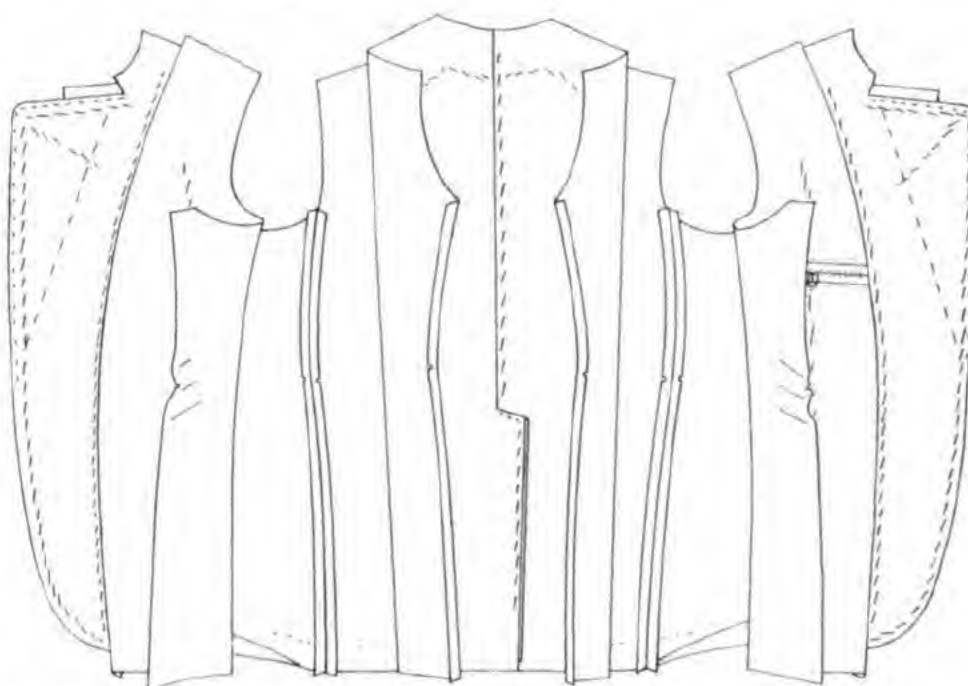
Fold the lining over the left vent, leaving about 1/4" (6 mm) of garment fabric showing at the edge. Baste the lining in place to just above the top of the hem.



The right vent is now placed on top of the left, and back-stitched securely along the top. Stitch through to the top of the left vent which is underneath, but do not go through to the right side of the fabric.

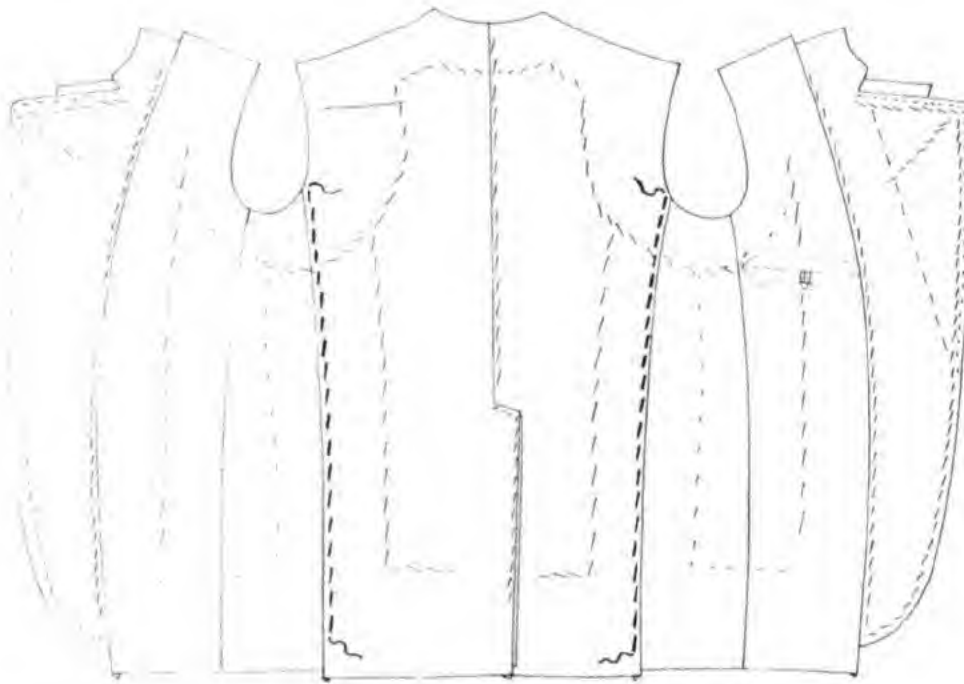


Fold and baste the right vent lining over the right vent, so that only a narrow edge of garment fabric is visible at the vent edge.

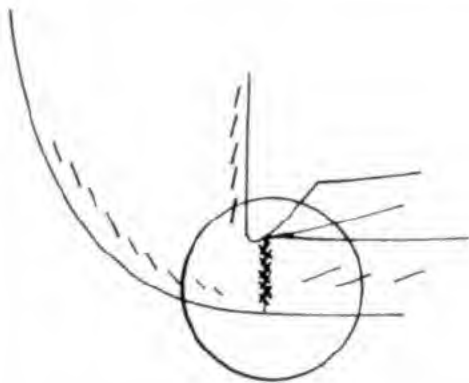


Since the vent is now completed, we'll machine-stitch the back of the jacket to the side panels and press the seams open. Also press back  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) on either side of the back lining.

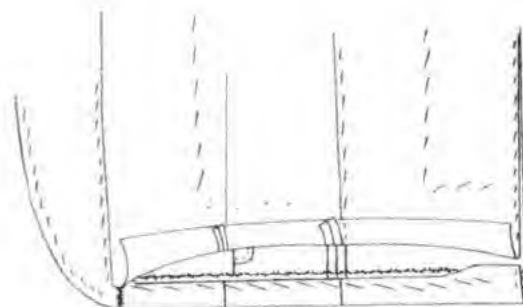




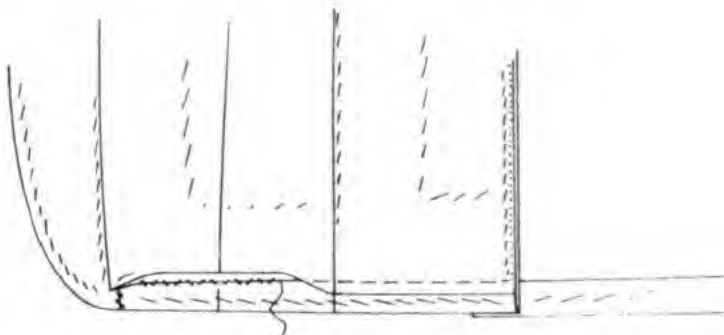
The folded edge of the back lining is basted on top of the side panel lining, and is finished with a slip-stitch. A few basting stitches are now added, connecting the front and back underarm basting



The raw edge of the facing is double-cross-stitched to the hem.



Fold the top edge of the jacket hem forward and hem-stitch it in place.



Baste up the lining hem so that it ends about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) above the jacket hem. Place your stitches about 1" (2.5 cm) above the lining hem fold, so that you will be able to lift the lining and hem-stitch one layer of it into the jacket hem. This procedure creates a fold at the lining hem, which affords the lining lengthwise ease.

The lining at the edge of the vent is finished with a prick-stitch.

# THE SHOULDER SEAMS

Before stitching the shoulder seams, the front shoulder must be reinforced with a strip of lining. Cut a semi-bias strip of the lining to be used as reinforcement, about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) wide and the length of the front shoulder seam.

Baste the lining strip to the wrong side of the garment fabric, at the front shoulder edge. Catch the garment fabric only, allowing the canvas and the lining to fall freely.

Baste the front and back of the jacket together at the shoulder seams. Since the back shoulder edge is about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) longer than the front (page 12), there will be rippling along the edge of the back seam when the shoulder is basted. Bring the ease to the center of the shoulder, leaving 1" (2.5 cm) or so at either end without rippling.

The extra ease at the back of the shoulder is there to provide added room for the curve of the back in the shoulder blade area. We can eliminate the rippling at the seam, and still retain the ease in the shoulder blade area, by steam pressing carefully, before the shoulder seam is machine-stitched.

Steam press on a flat surface, allowing the iron to extend onto the fabric no more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) or so. Bring the iron flat down on top of the ripples at the shoulder edge. The combination of heat and moisture on the flat surface, should cause the ripples to shrink away.

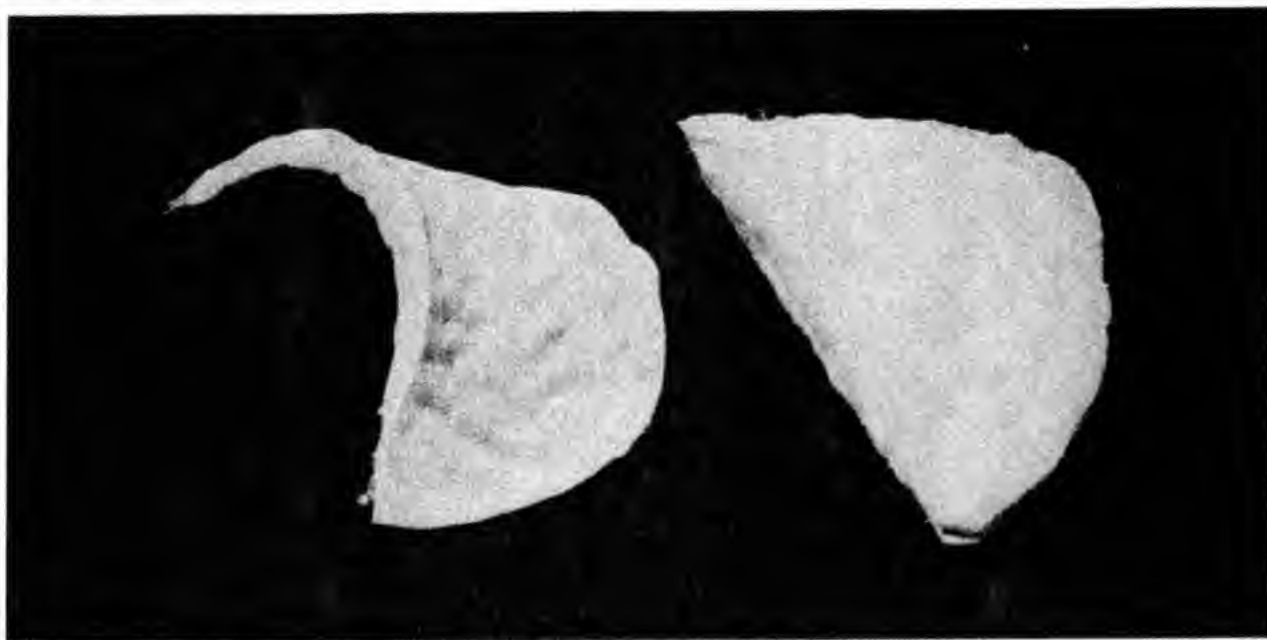
If the iron is allowed to extend further onto the shoulder area, while still on a flat surface, the ease in the shoulder blade area will also shrink away, and the whole process will have been useless.

It is essential that this pressing be done while the shoulder seam is basted, and not yet machine-stitched. Once the seam has been machine-stitched, it will be impossible to eliminate the ripples.

Machine-stitch the shoulder seam, remove the basting, and press the seam open. Use a tailor's ham for pressing here, in order to protect the shape you have created.



# THE SHOULDER PADS



The shoulder pad at the right in this photograph is the best ready-made shoulder pad available. As you can see, it is flat and heavy, and does not coincide with the natural contour of the shoulder.

The shoulder pad at the left can be constructed quite simply, using cotton wadding as

the filler, and bias muslin as the top and bottom covering. (Use the shoulder pad pattern on page 243 to cut the muslin coverings.)

Cotton wadding is available in bulk at upholstery supply stores; or, if you prefer, simply take the wadding from a pair of ready-made shoulder pads and reshape it.



Separate the wadding into thin layers, and create on the muslin shoulder-pad pattern, a smooth, sloping mound which tapers to nothing at the sides and back.



Press down gently at the front centermost edge of the pad and measure the thickness. The amount of padding most flattering to your shoulder has been determined at the muslin fitting.



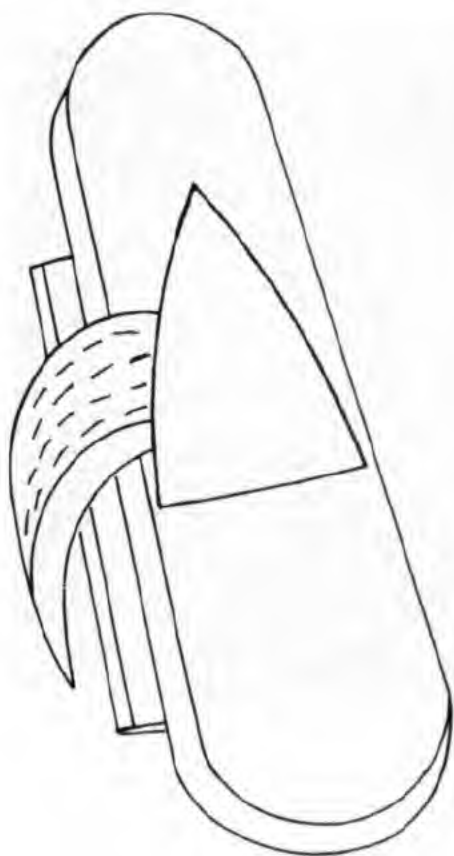
Cover the wadding with a second piece of muslin and baste across the top of the pad to anchor the layers together. By pulling the bottom layer of the muslin cover down a bit, and tacking at either end, the pad begins to take shape.



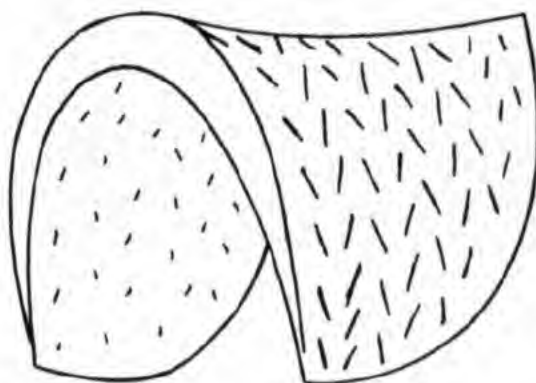
Pad-stitch the shoulder pad from end to end, beginning at the center and working in rows, first towards the front, and then, from the center, towards the back. The stitches go right through all layers of the filling, and should be left comfortably without pulling.



Trim slightly across the front of the pad and around the edges.



Press the shoulder pad, maintaining the curve you have created.

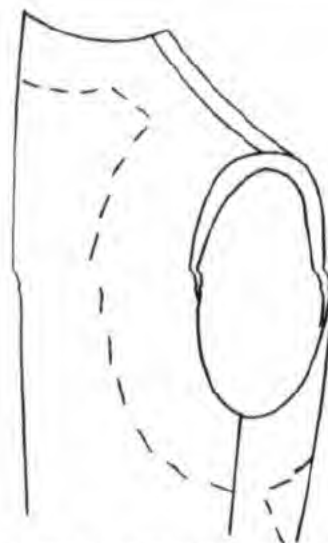




## INSERTING SHOULDER PADS



Before the shoulder pad is sewn into the jacket, check the shoulder width once more, with the pad in place.

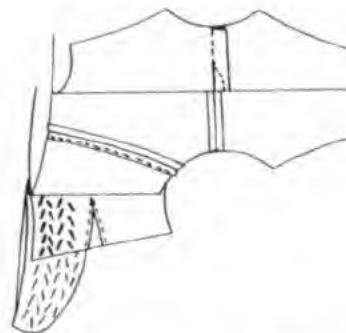


If the cutting edge at the top of the shoulder extends out beyond the shoulder edge, the fabric may need trimming. As a guide, place a ruler at the bicep and extending up towards the shoulder (see page 105). If the fabric extends out beyond the ruler at the shoulder, the jacket shoulder is too wide and should be trimmed before attaching the shoulder pad.

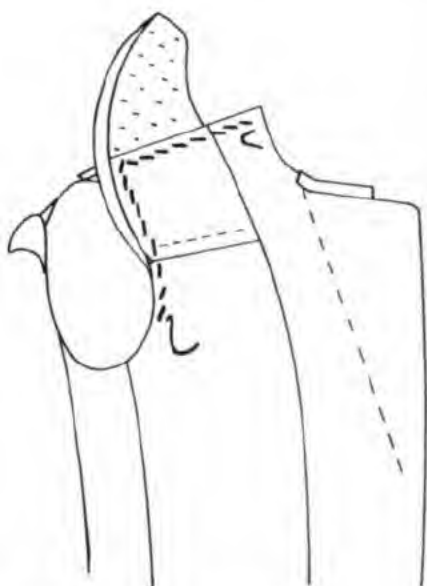
The shoulder pad is placed into the armhole of the jacket, so that the center of the pad is at the shoulder seam.

The pad should be between the lining and the canvas, at the armhole cutting edge.

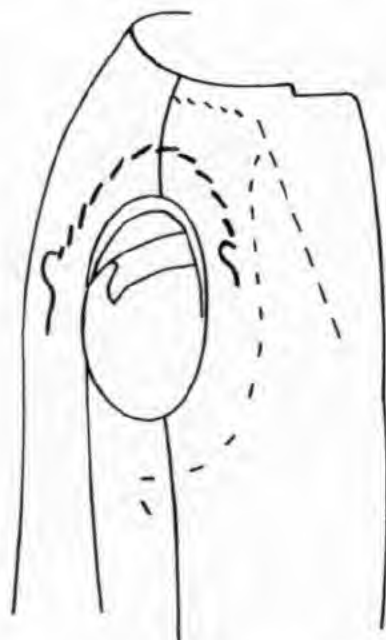
Sometimes, when the top of the shoulder pad is at the armhole cutting edge, the ends of the pad are not. Pull the shoulder pad out until the ends of the pad are at the armhole cutting edge. You can trim the excess later.



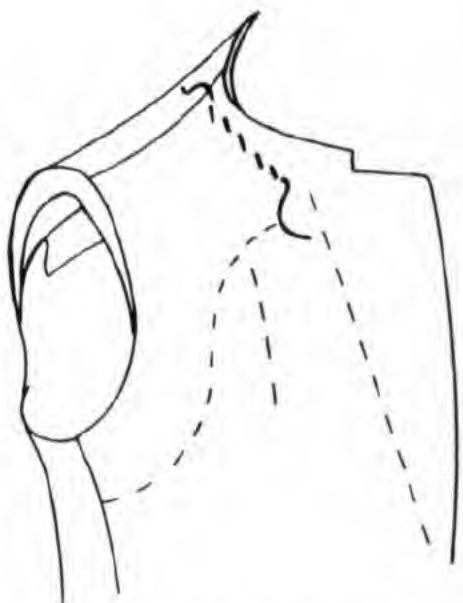
With the shoulder pad exactly in place, reach into the armhole and pin the shoulder pad to the canvas. The shoulder pad is now pad-stitched to the canvas, the stitches covering the entire area of the canvas touched by the pad. Stitch through all layers of padding.



Smooth the front lining up over the shoulder pad and baste the lining to the pad along the armhole and across the top of the lining.



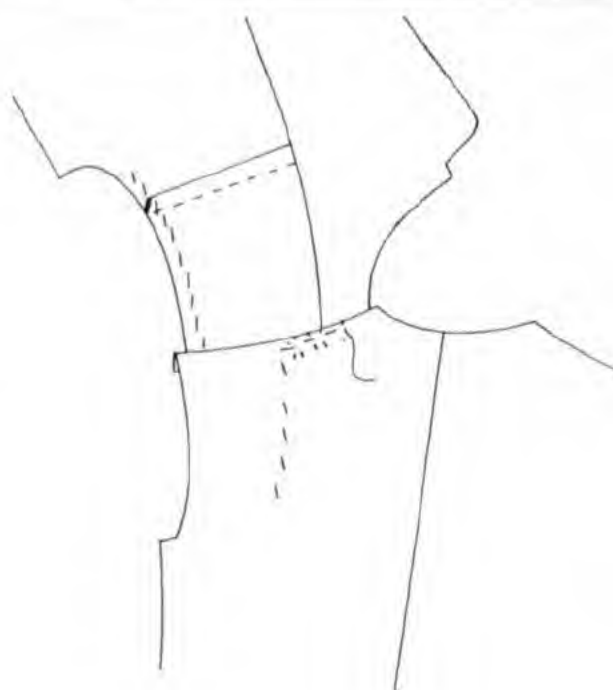
Smooth the jacket fabric out towards the armhole, and baste the entire length of the shoulder pad, about 3" (7.6 cm) in from the armhole edge. Catch the top layer of the shoulder pad as you baste.



With one hand inside the shoulder area, give the shoulder a concave shape and baste along the front neck edge of the jacket, catching the facing. This step is essential in creating the concave shape of the shoulder, a telling detail in a fine-tailored jacket.



The lining at the back of the jacket is still hanging loose at the shoulder. Smooth the back lining up over the shoulder pad and baste from the outside, right through the shoulder pad, to catch the lining. Baste from the bottom end of the shoulder pad up, stopping about 1" (2.5 cm) from the shoulder seam; and bring the needle through to the inside.



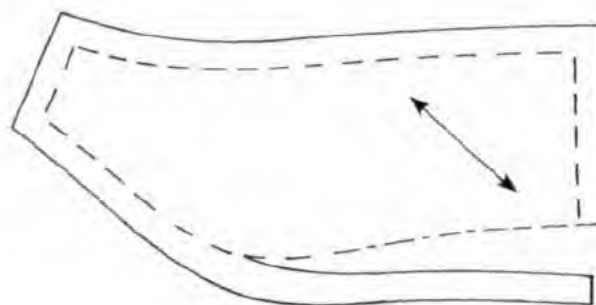
Fold the back lining across the shoulder, and baste across the fold, towards the neck edge. Place a bit of ease into the back lining as you baste. The lining is left loose, 3" (7.6 cm) in from the armhole edge.

## THE COLLAR

The collar can be constructed by following the design lines of your pattern, or in a way that leaves room for a bit of your own designing. Essential to both methods of construction is the fit of the undercollar at the jacket neckline, from collar notch to collar notch.

If during the muslin fitting, you adjusted any of the seams that extend into the neckline, you are already aware that your undercollar pattern needs adjusting. You may, however, have "unintentionally" adjusted some of the neckline seams. The first step is to check the fit of the undercollar pattern.

To do this, first trim away the seam allowance on the undercollar paper pattern. You will eventually need this seam allowance, but it is much easier to check the fit of the paper pattern if the seam allowance is not in the way.



Chalkmark the neck edge seam allowance on the jacket, and match the undercollar pattern, stitchline to stitchline, from collar notch to center back seam, first on one side of the jacket, and then on the other.

If you need an extra  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) or so, to help the pattern reach the entire distance comfortably, add to the collar pattern at the center back seam. If you are in doubt, remember that it is much easier to work with a collar which is slightly larger than necessary, than it is to work with one which is slightly too small.

It is possible in checking the pattern, to find that it fits well on one side of the jacket, but not on the other. Whatever the cause (slight inaccuracies in stitching the shoulder seams, or the center back seam), you must now make a collar that is larger on one side than on the other. This is not a problem. Simply prepare both sides of the collar using the larger dimensions, and we'll adjust it later.

If you have made extensive alterations in your jacket pattern at the neckline and shoulder, it may be necessary to discard the collar pattern and to draft a completely new one. Instructions for drafting a collar, using the jacket neck edge as guide, are found on page 151.

Once you are content with the fit of your undercollar pattern, consider the design. At this point you are still free either to redesign the collar, or to go with the collar design of the commercial pattern.

Many tailors leave the question of design until the undercollar has been attached to the jacket. They leave themselves room for designing by cutting the top and the ends of the melton undercollar much larger than necessary. When the undercollar has been attached to the jacket, they simply draw a collar which looks good with the existing lapel, and trim the excess away. This is a simple procedure, and quite exciting if you have the desire to branch out a bit on your own.

On the other hand, the collars designed by commercial patternmakers are usually in tasteful balance with the jacket lapel, and you may have chosen this pattern largely because of this style. Know your options, make your choice and forge ahead.

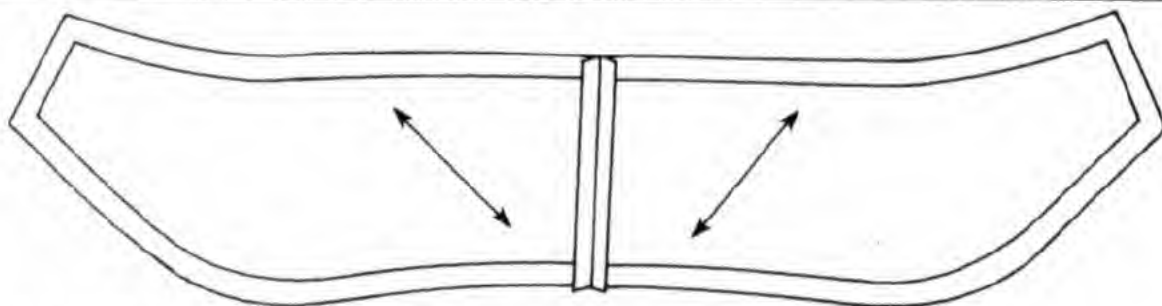


Our instructions for the construction of the undercollar will assume that you are following the lines of the commercial pattern. However, the instructions are appropriate for both methods of collar construction. The careful measurement of seam allowances at the top of the collar is not important if you are designing your own collar; however, the shape and seam allowances at the neck edge of the undercollar should be adhered to carefully.

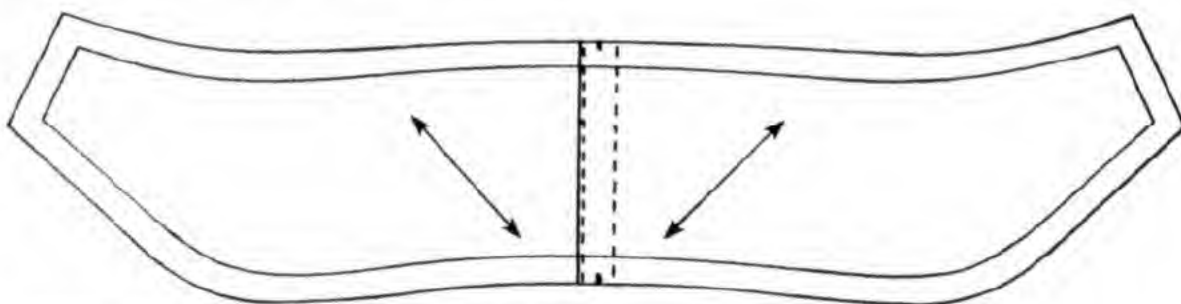
## CONSTRUCTING THE UNDERCOLLAR

The undercollar is constructed of collar melton and French canvas, pad-stitched together. If you can find good quality prepadded collar melton, in the color that you need, by all means use it instead of pad-stitching the melton

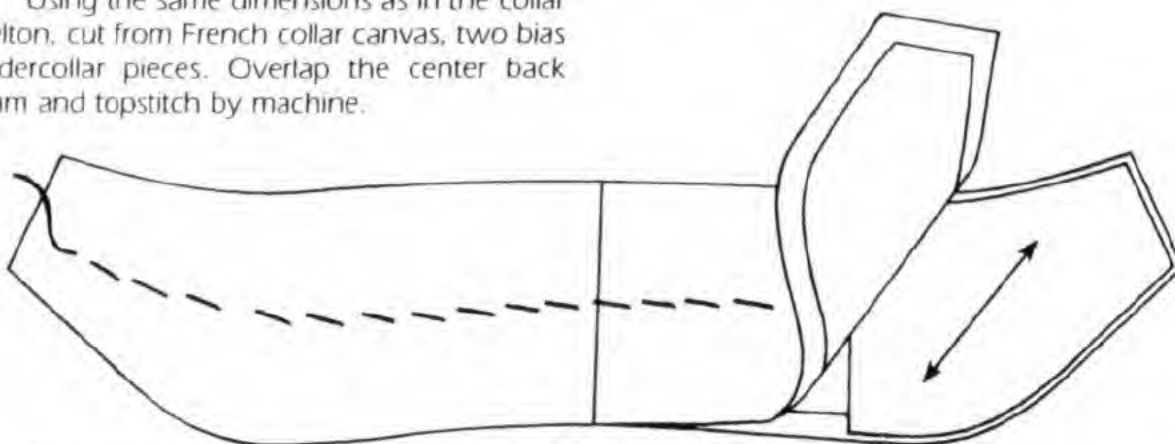
and French canvas together yourself. Because the quality of the prepadded collar melton varies greatly and the color choice is often limited, we give directions here for preparing and pad-stitching the undercollar yourself.



Cut from collar melton, in a color which coordinates with your garment fabric, two bias undercollar pieces. Leave  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) seam allowance at the outer edges and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam allowance at the center back. Machine-stitch the center back seam and press it open.

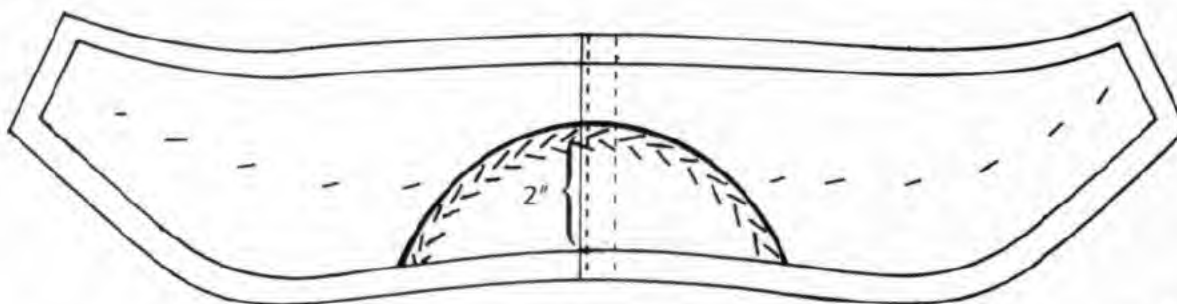


Using the same dimensions as in the collar melton, cut from French collar canvas, two bias undercollar pieces. Overlap the center back seam and topstitch by machine.



Place the French canvas on the wrong side of the collar melton, and between the two, at either end, place a bias piece of pocketing to add body to the front of the collar. The pocketing covers about one half of either side of the undercollar. Baste the French canvas, the pocketing, and the melton together.

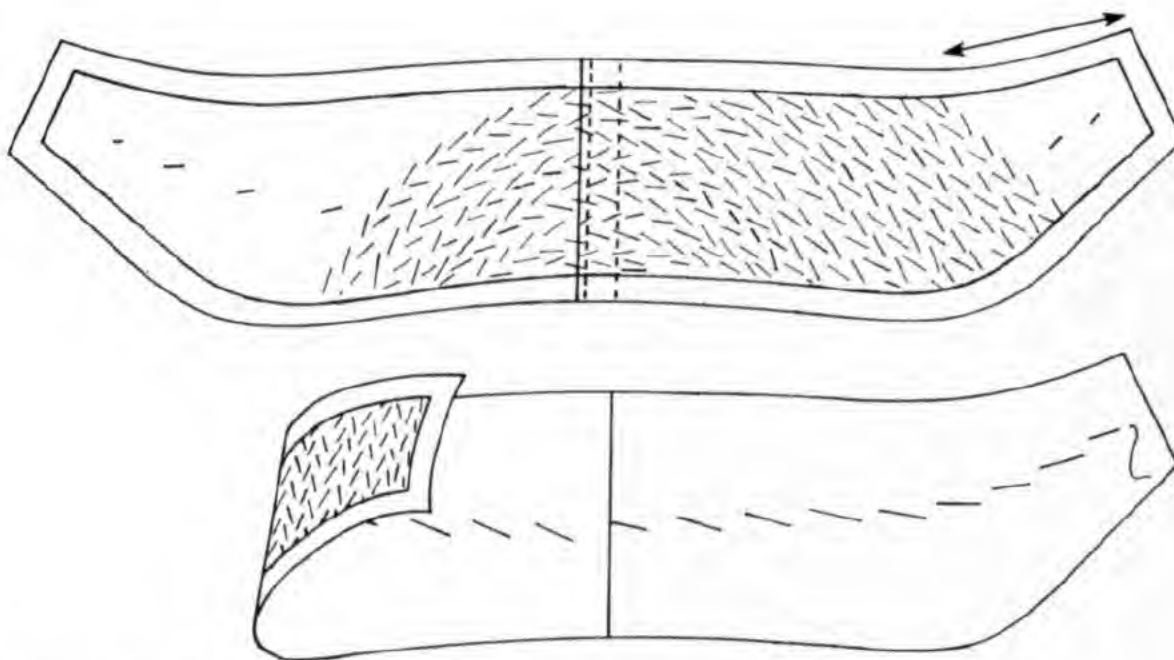




The French canvas is now pad-stitched (page 93) to the melton undercollar. We want the two fabrics joined, but still flexible enough to be shaped with the iron. To maintain this controlled flexibility, we'll pad-stitch in a semi-circular pattern, which coincides with the bias cut of the fabric.

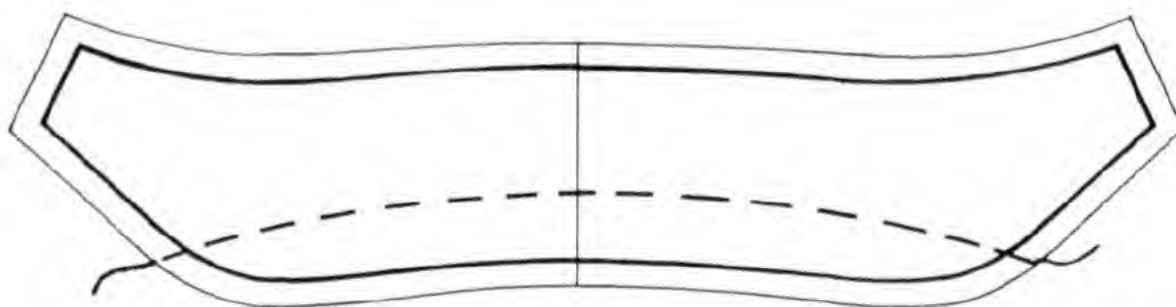
Using a radius of about 2" (5 cm), draw a semi-circle at the neck edge stitchline of the

canvas undercollar. Pad-stitch inside and then, beyond the semi-circle, maintaining the circular pattern of stitches. Use silk finishing thread close in color to the collar melton, so that the stitches will not be noticeable on the right side of the undercollar. Pad-stitch only within the limits of the seam allowance which is drawn on the canvas.



The tips of the collar, about 2" (5 cm) from either end, are pad-stitched while held in a rolled position (as illustrated). This technique ensures that, in the finished jacket, the collar tips will incline downwards towards the shoulder, rather than curling up.



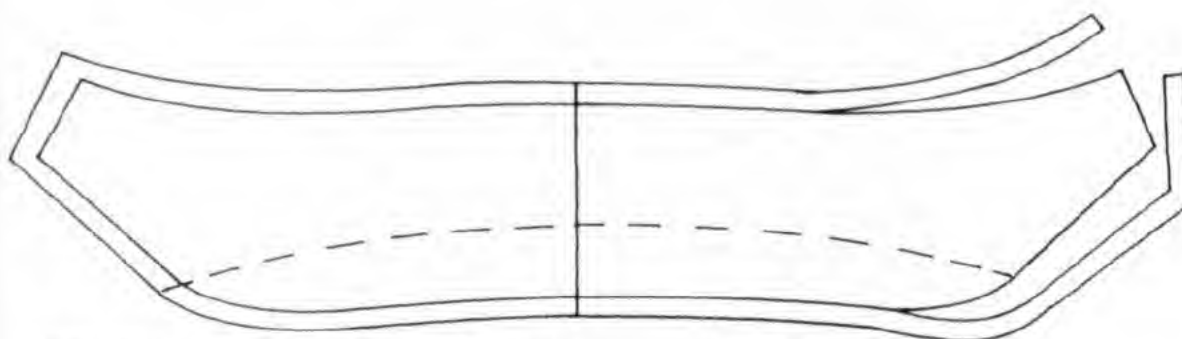


Press the undercollar on the canvas side, on a flat surface.

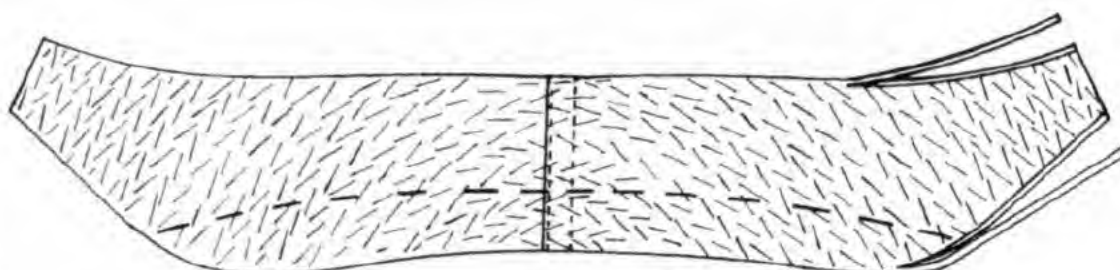
Since both the melton and the canvas are cut on the bias, a certain amount of stretching will occur during the pad-stitching. Our next step, therefore, is to redraw the undercollar stitchline, this time on the right side of the collar.

Sharpen the chalk so that you get a clear, accurate line. Begin at the center back, and draw first one side of the undercollar and then the other. Also mark the undercollar roll line, in chalk, and then in basting thread.

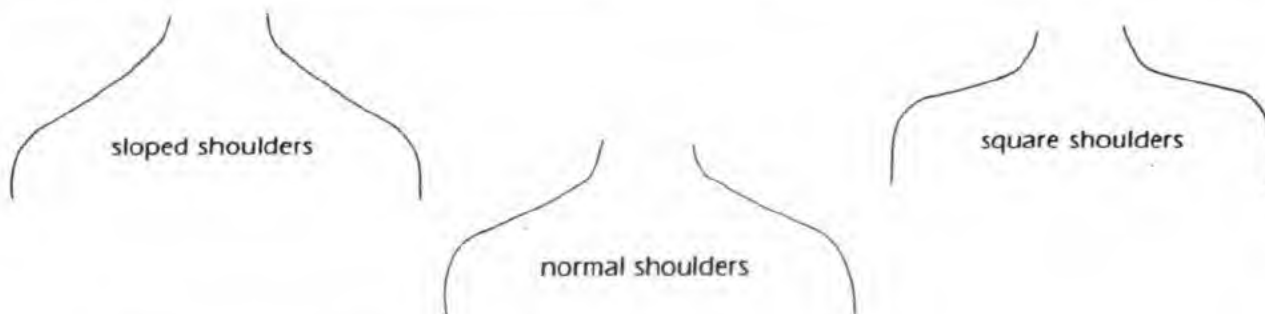
If your measurement of the jacket neck edge showed one side slightly smaller than the other, the adjustment in the collar can be made at this point. Before drawing the smaller of the two sides of the collar, fold back the necessary amount on the paper pattern, at center back. Place the folded edge of the pattern at the center back of the melton undercollar, and trace the outline.



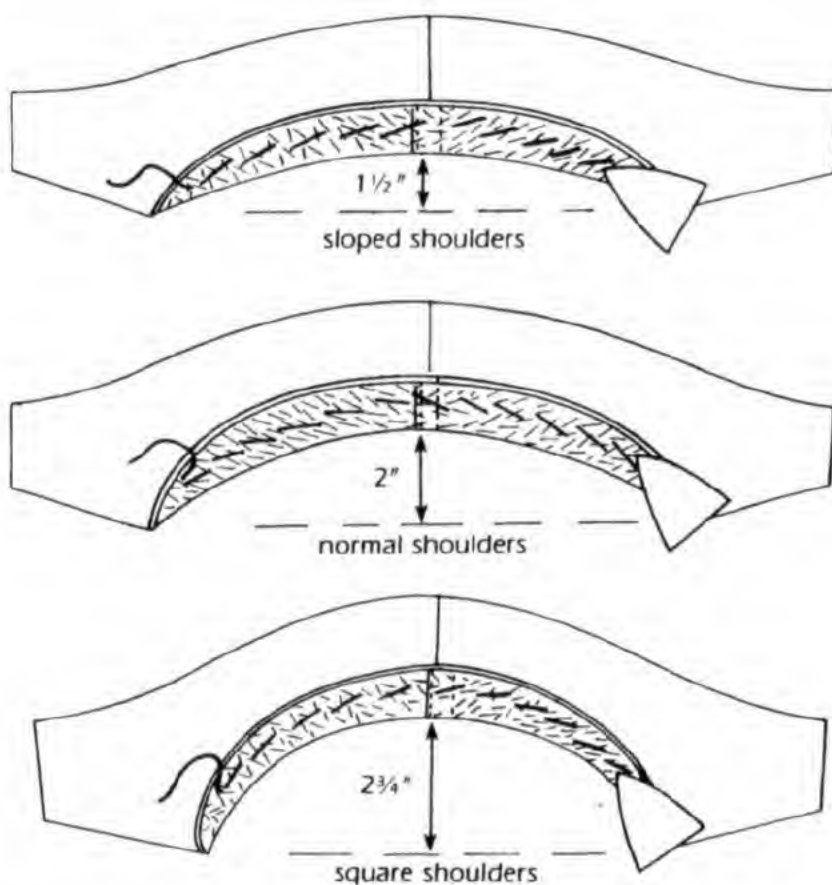
From the melton side, trim away the seam allowance completely—top, bottom, sides.



Trim a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) margin of canvas from the top and bottom edges of the undercollar. We're doing this to prevent the raw edges of the canvas from peeking through to the outside. There is no need to trim the canvas at the ends of the undercollar, since the topcollar will eventually hide any stray canvas threads in this area.



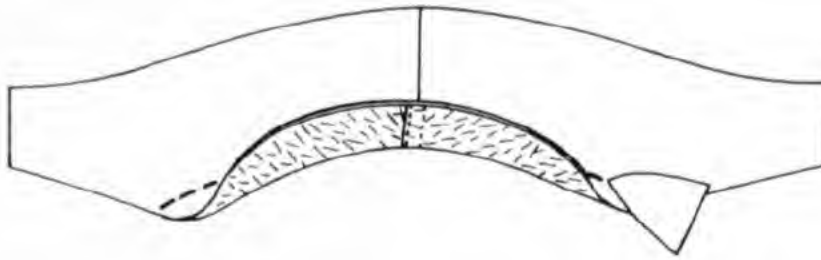
The undercollar is now pressed into shape, taking into consideration the slope of the client's shoulder.



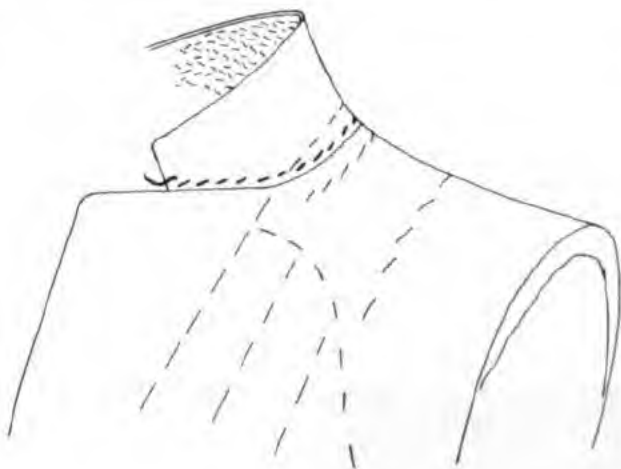
Fold the collar on the roll line and baste it in place.

Using a moderate amount of steam, press the folded edge into an arc, the depth of which depends on your determination of the client's shoulders as *sloped*, *normal*, or *square*. For *sloped shoulders*, the depth of the arc is about  $1\frac{1}{2}"$  (3.8 cm); for *normal shoulders*,  $2"$  (5 cm), and for *square shoulders*,  $2\frac{3}{4}"$  (7 cm). This shaping is a fine point in the fit of the collar and

lapel. If, for example, a collar shaped to fit normal shoulders was set on a jacket shaped to fit sloped shoulders, the lapel would not lie flat. It would lift up, away from the jacket. A "sloped collar" placed on a normal neckline would cause the jacket to pull away from the body at the lapel roll line. These are slight inclinations in one direction or another, but they are there, and they make a significant difference in comfort and fit.



While shaping the undercollar you will have pressed a crease in the roll line. Now, remove the basting which held the neck edge back, and for a few inches at either end of the roll line, press the crease out.



Begin basting the undercollar to the jacket at the center back seam. The raw edge of one side of the undercollar is placed along the chalk guideline which you've drawn at the neckline. The front end of the collar should fall at the collar notch.



The second half of the undercollar is basted beginning at the front, and working around towards the center back. Before beginning to baste the second half of the undercollar make sure that the distance from the tip of the lapel to the beginning of the collar is identical on each lapel.

Working on the canvas side, cross-stitch the undercollar to the jacket neckline. Use silk finishing thread, and stitch along the gorge line seam allowance, across the top of the facing, and the back neckline. Do not catch the back lining in this stitch.



If you have left extra fabric in your undercollar in order to be free to design the collar shape in reference to the lapel (page 139), do that now. Measure both sides of the collar accurately, as any discrepancy in length will be in full view on the front of the jacket.

It is customary to stop at this point in the construction of the collar, and to move ahead to the sleeve. Once a muslin sleeve has been set into the jacket, the client is called in for the *final fitting*. At the fitting, both the collar and the sleeve are checked for fit, and the collar is checked for style.

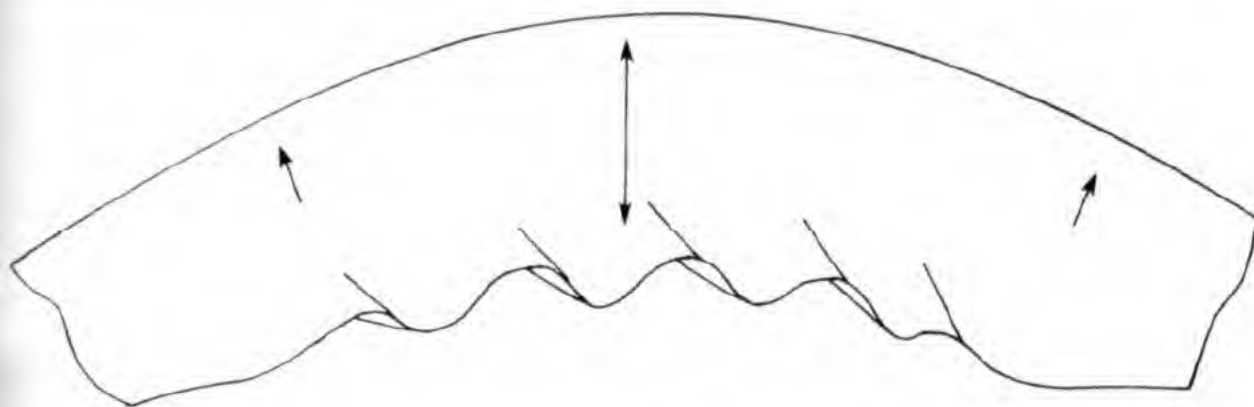
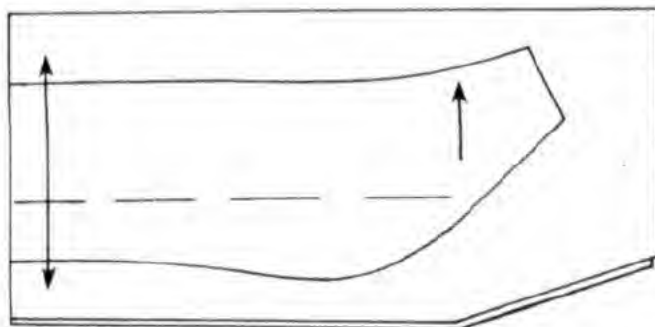
If you are making the jacket for yourself, and you are pleased with the collar shape, by all means, finish it now. If you are working for someone else, you can reduce the number of fittings by moving ahead to the sleeve at this point.

After the fitting, the collar is finished before the garment fabric sleeve is set.

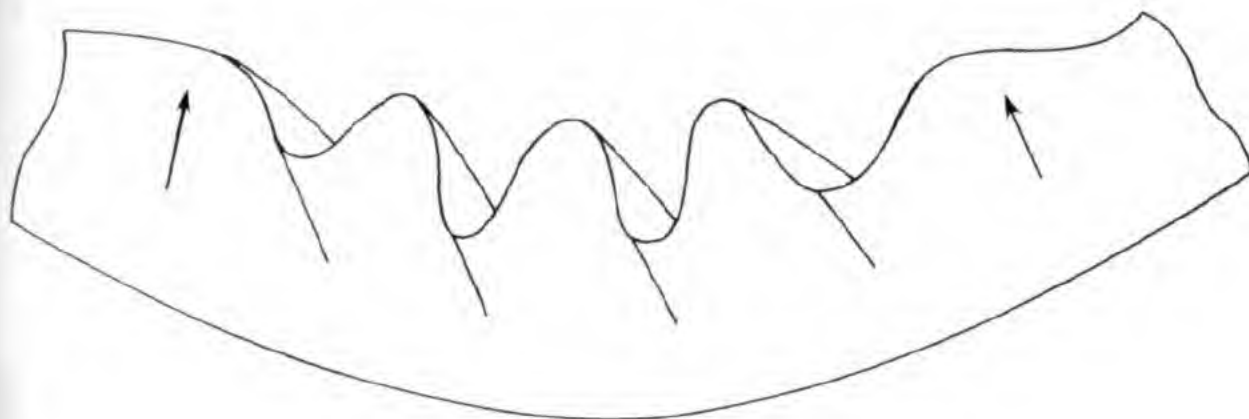
## CONSTRUCTING THE TOPCOLLAR

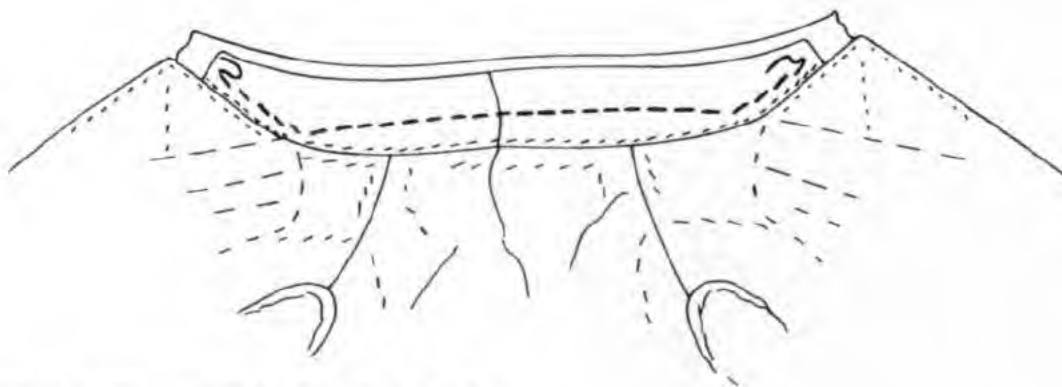
To create the topcollar, cut a piece of garment fabric on the fold, straight grain, nap up,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) longer than the undercollar pat-

tern and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) larger than the pattern, on top and bottom.

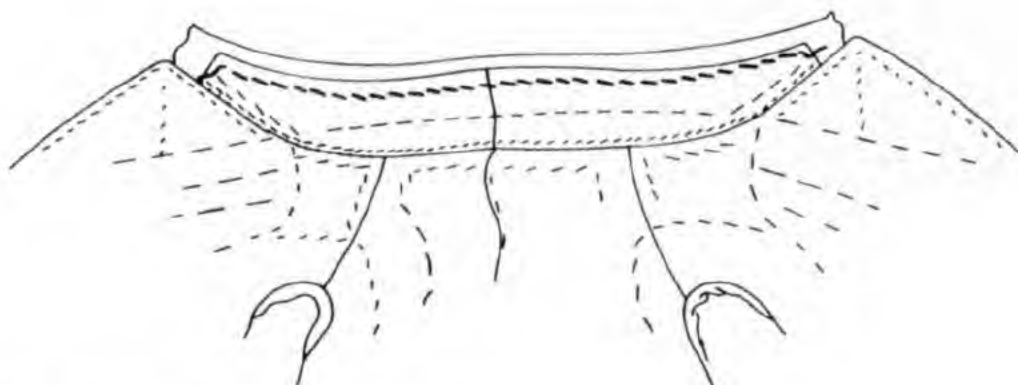


Using a steam iron, stretch the fabric top and bottom.

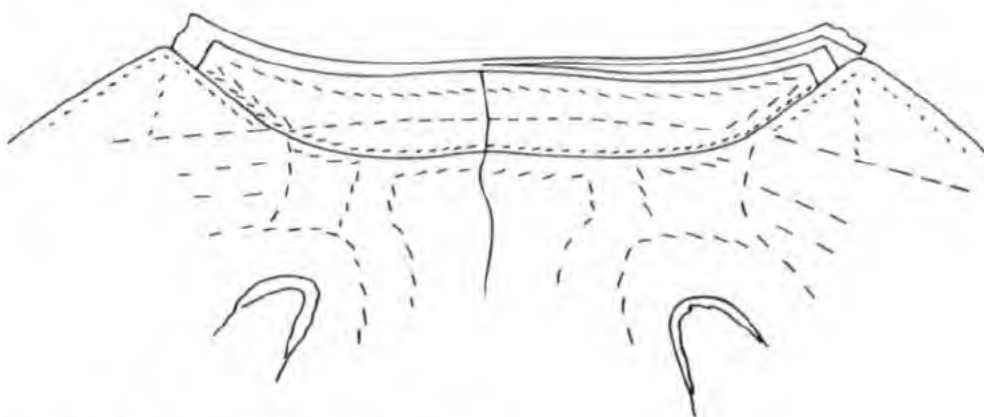




Place the undercollar face down on the wrong side of the topcollar, and baste the two together, from gorge line to gorge line, across the undercollar roll line.

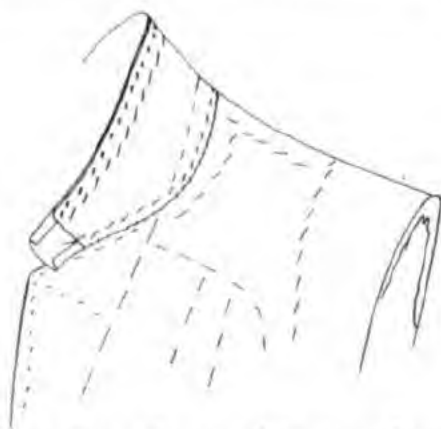


Baste across the top of the undercollar, about 1" (2.5 cm) from the edge.

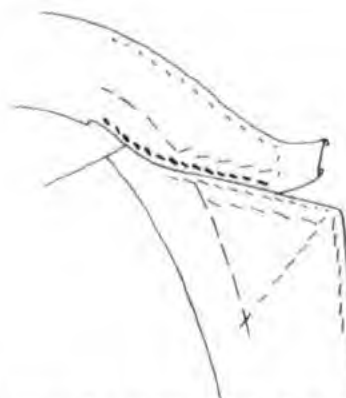


Trim the topcollar, leaving  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam allowance visible above the top of the undercollar, and 1" (2.5 cm) at the sides.

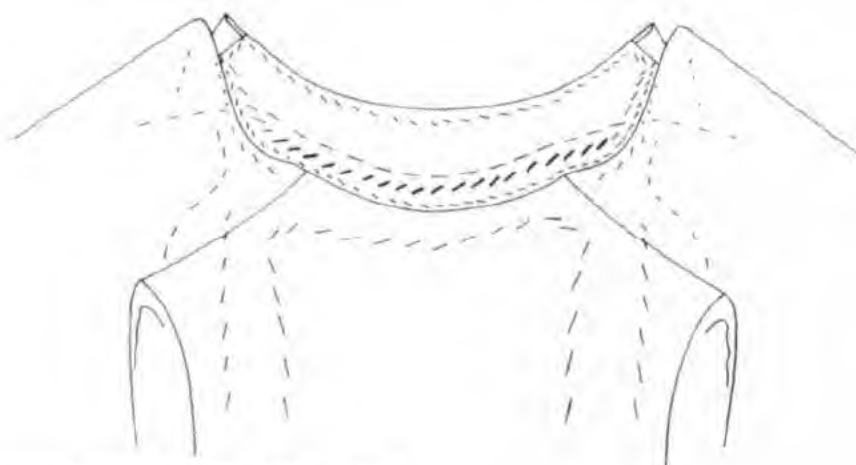




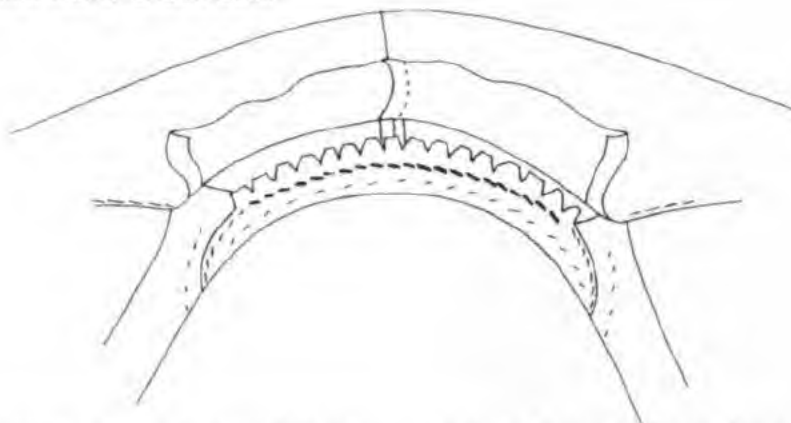
Baste across the top of the topcollar, folding the seam allowance to the inside. Allow the topcollar fold to extend about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) above the undercollar, so that the seam will not be visible when the jacket is worn. Both the top edge and the neck edge of the undercollar are finished with a slip-stitch, using silk thread.



The topcollar is trimmed, if necessary, and then folded along the gorge line. From the collar notch to just past the roll line, the topcollar fold meets flush with the fold of fabric on the facing lapel. Beginning just past the roll line and continuing to just past the lining shoulder seam, the topcollar fold overlaps onto the facing.

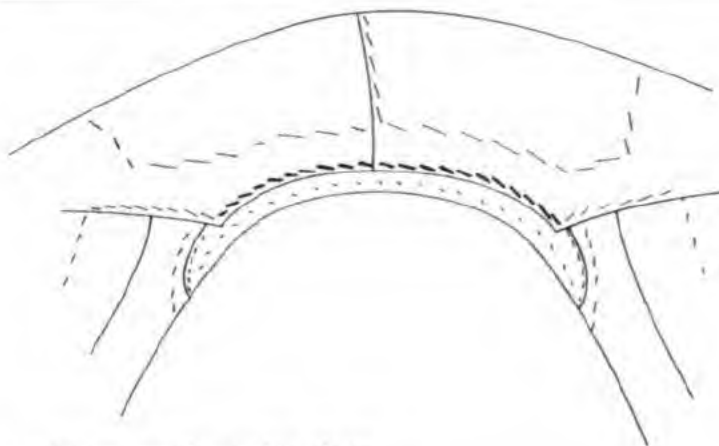


With the topcollar flat on the table, baste across the undercollar just below the roll line, catching the topcollar fabric underneath.

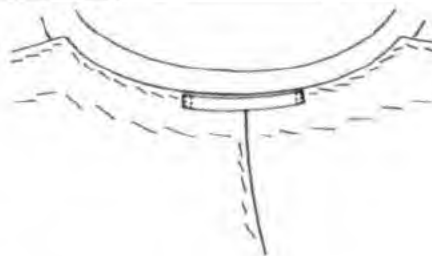


Just past the lining shoulder seam, the topcollar is slashed several times so that it will be able to take the curve of the neckline without pulling. Baste along the back neckline, catching

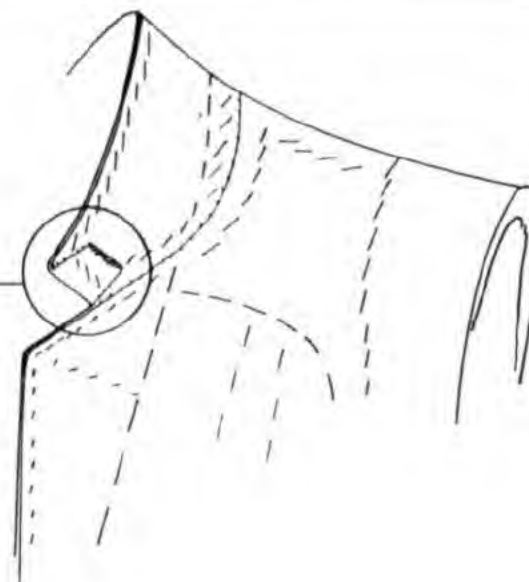
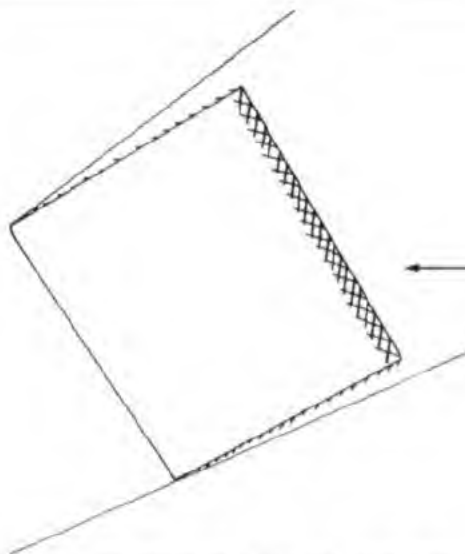
the undercollar. Since these stitches will remain in the jacket, make sure that they do not show through to the right side.



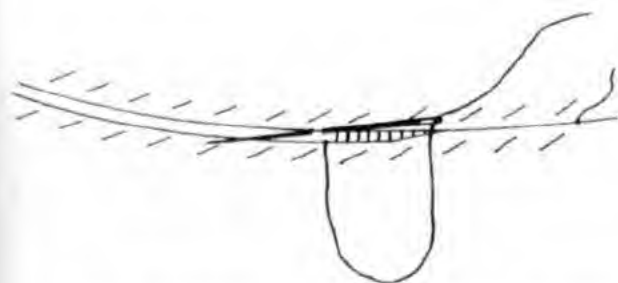
The lining is now folded and basted in place along the neckline. Finish the lining neck edge with a prick-stitch, using silk thread.



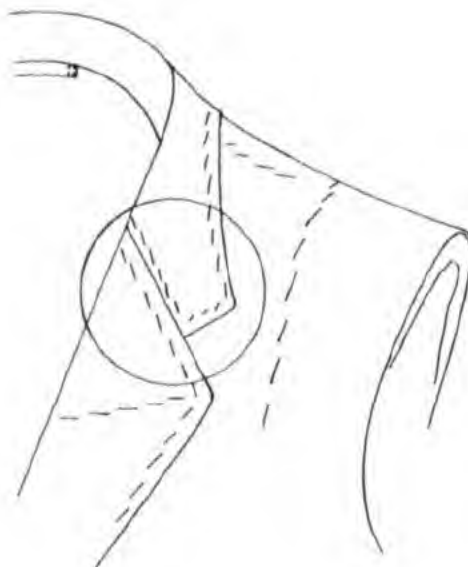
If you would like, construct a loop out of lining fabric, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) long and  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) wide, finished. Attach the loop at the lining neck edge, back-stitching it securely through to the undercollar.



The excess fabric at either end of the collar is now folded back and pressed in place. It is finished with a slip-stitch at top and bottom, and a double-cross-stitch along the raw edge. Use silk finishing thread.



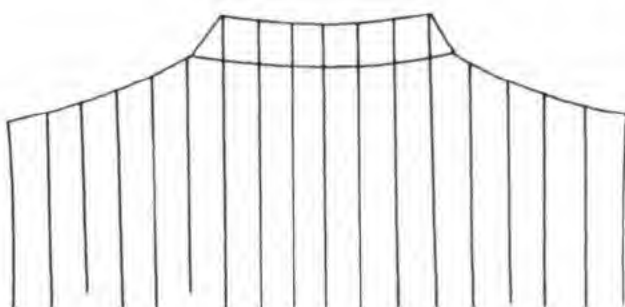
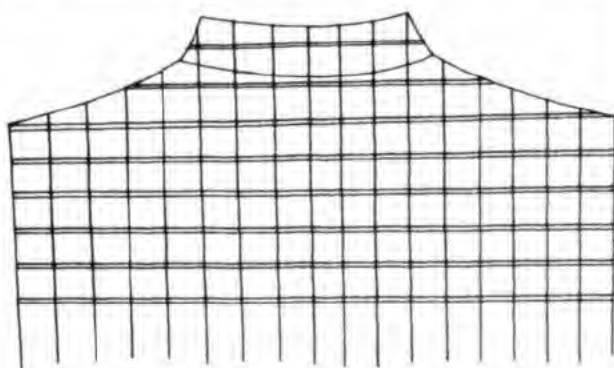
The gorge line is now sewn from the outside using a ladder stitch, to bring the topcollar fold and the facing fold together without visible stitching. The stitch is taken at the side of the fold rather than on top, and runs back and forth from facing to topcollar. After each three or four stitches, one stitch is taken at the center, between the two folds, anchoring the thread into the canvas.



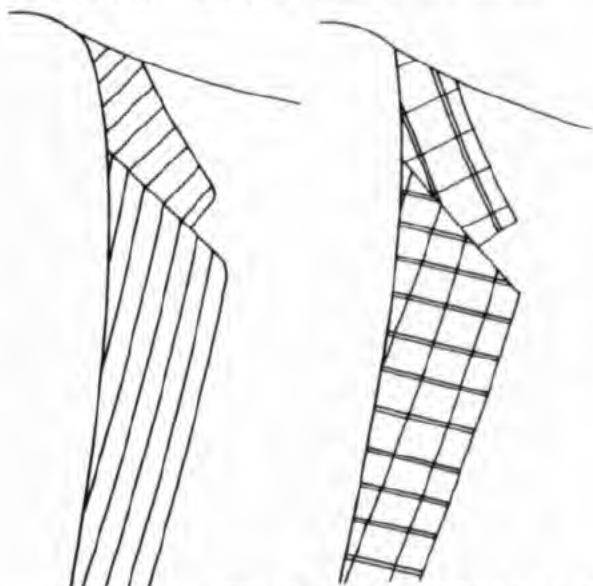
With the collar complete, a final touch is added to the jacket front. Using #A silk thread, slip-stitch along the very edge of the collar, the lapel, and the jacket front, on the topside of the fabric. These stitches should be *tiny* and *unnoticed*. Their purpose is to guarantee a permanently crisp edge.



# PLAID AND STRIPED COLLARS

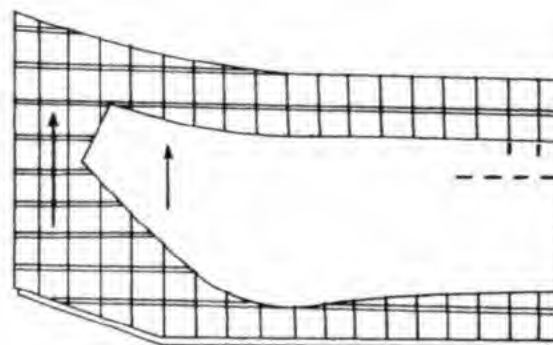
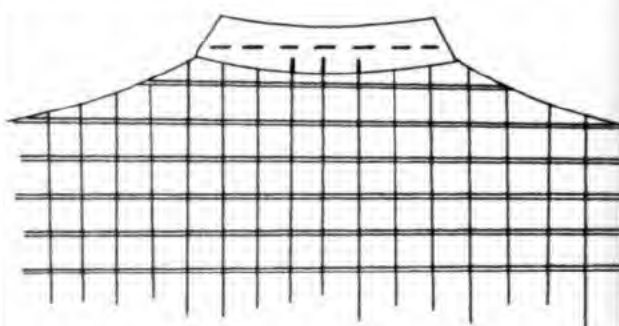


The topcollar on a plaid or striped jacket should match the design at the top of the jacket back. Note that in a plaid fabric this matching should be both horizontal as well as vertical.



You will be able to match striped fabric at the gorge line if the stripes in the fabric are  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) or less apart. To match stripes, which are farther apart than  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) or so, would require excessive shrinking of the top collar at the neck edge.

In a plaid, matching the design at the gorge line is virtually impossible.



Chalkmark on the canvas of the completed undercollar, short vertical lines which indicate the position of the centermost vertical bars in the plaid or striped fabric design. If a plaid fabric, rather than a stripe is being used, it is also necessary to draw on the undercollar a horizontal line, indicating the next horizontal bar of the plaid design.

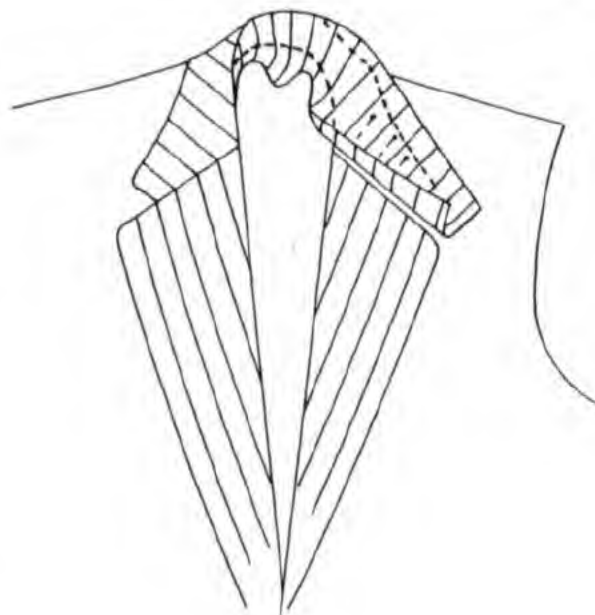
Transfer these guidelines to your paper undercollar pattern.

Use the undercollar pattern, from which all seam allowance has been trimmed, to cut the topcollar from garment fabric. With the fold of the fabric at center back, carefully match the design guidelines, which are on the paper pattern, with those on the fabric. Cut the topcollar  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) larger than the pattern all around.

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The attachment of the plaid topcollar continues according to the instructions which begin on page 145. The one point to remember is to match the design guidelines which were drawn on the canvas undercollar, with the topcollar fabric design, before beginning to baste.

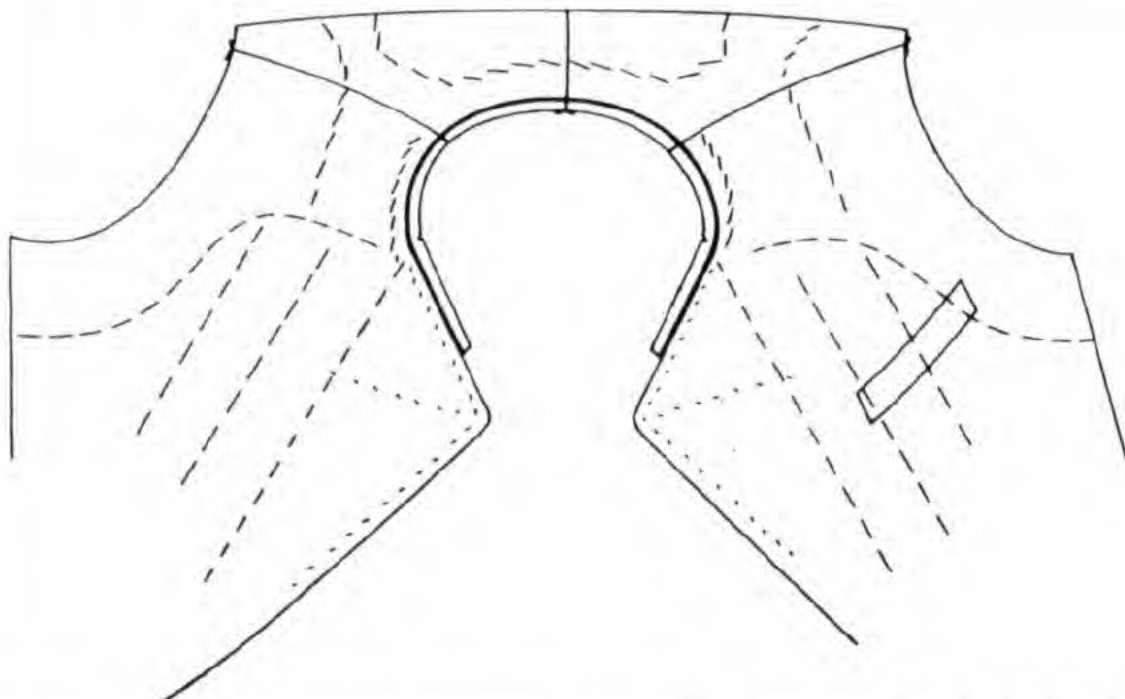
The striped topcollar must be pinned in place before being basted, so that the topcollar fabric can be placed to match not only at the center back of the jacket, but also at the gorge line. If the stripes in the pattern are not too far apart, this match of stripes at the gorge line can usually be accomplished by a slight movement of the topcollar fabric downwards.



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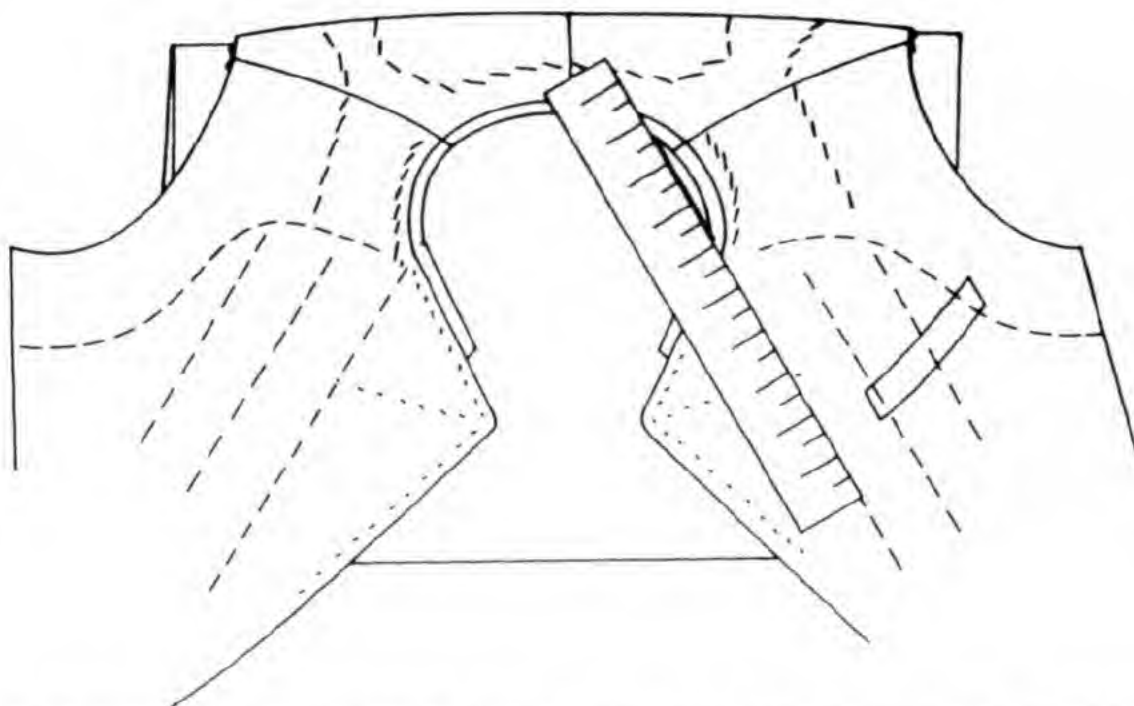
## THE COLLAR DRAFT

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If you have made extensive pattern alterations involving the jacket neckline, it may be necessary to draft a new collar pattern, using the jacket neck edge as guide.

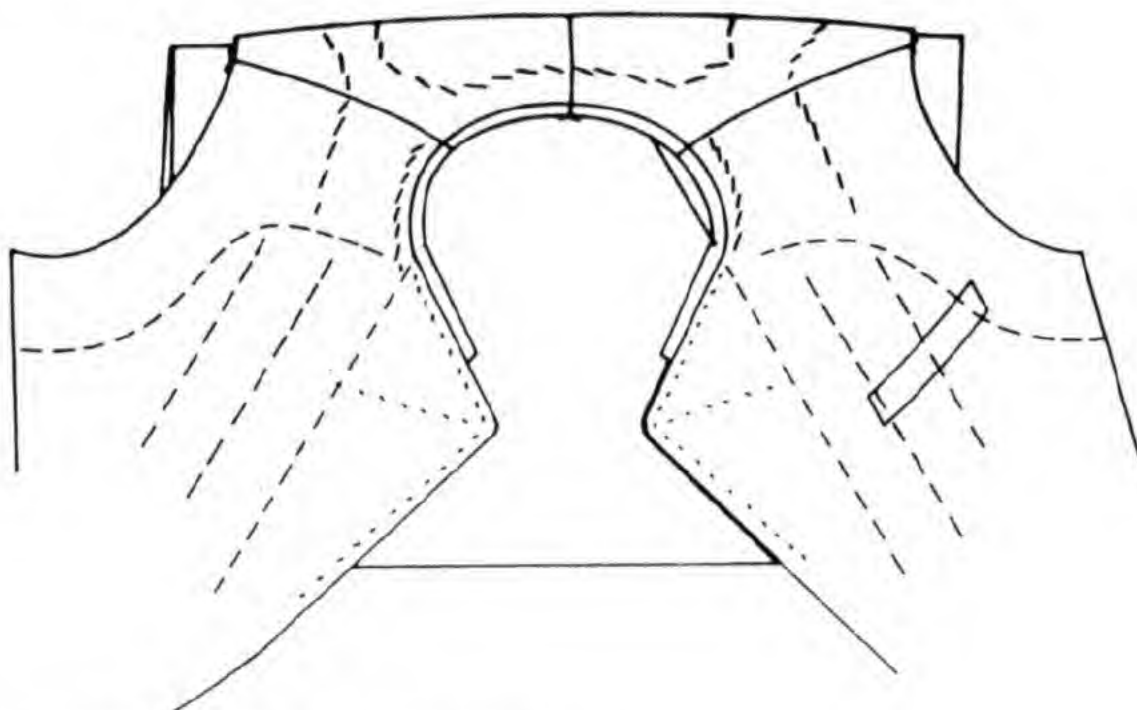
With the jacket folded flat on the table, and the neckline in full view, draw a chalkline indicating the neckline seam allowance, from collar notch to collar notch.



Place a folded piece of paper inside the jacket, large enough to reach just below the lapel.

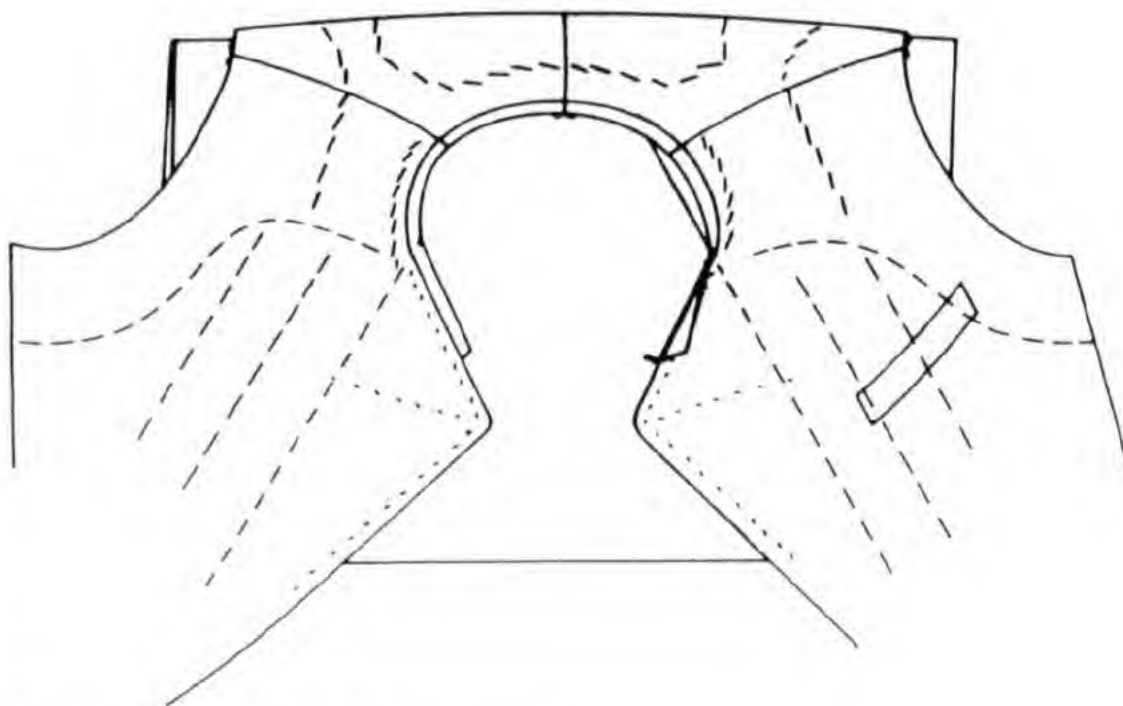
On one side of the jacket place a ruler along the lapel roll line, and draw on the paper, a short

line indicating the extension of the roll line into the neck area. It is important that the jacket not be shifted at all once this guideline has been noted.

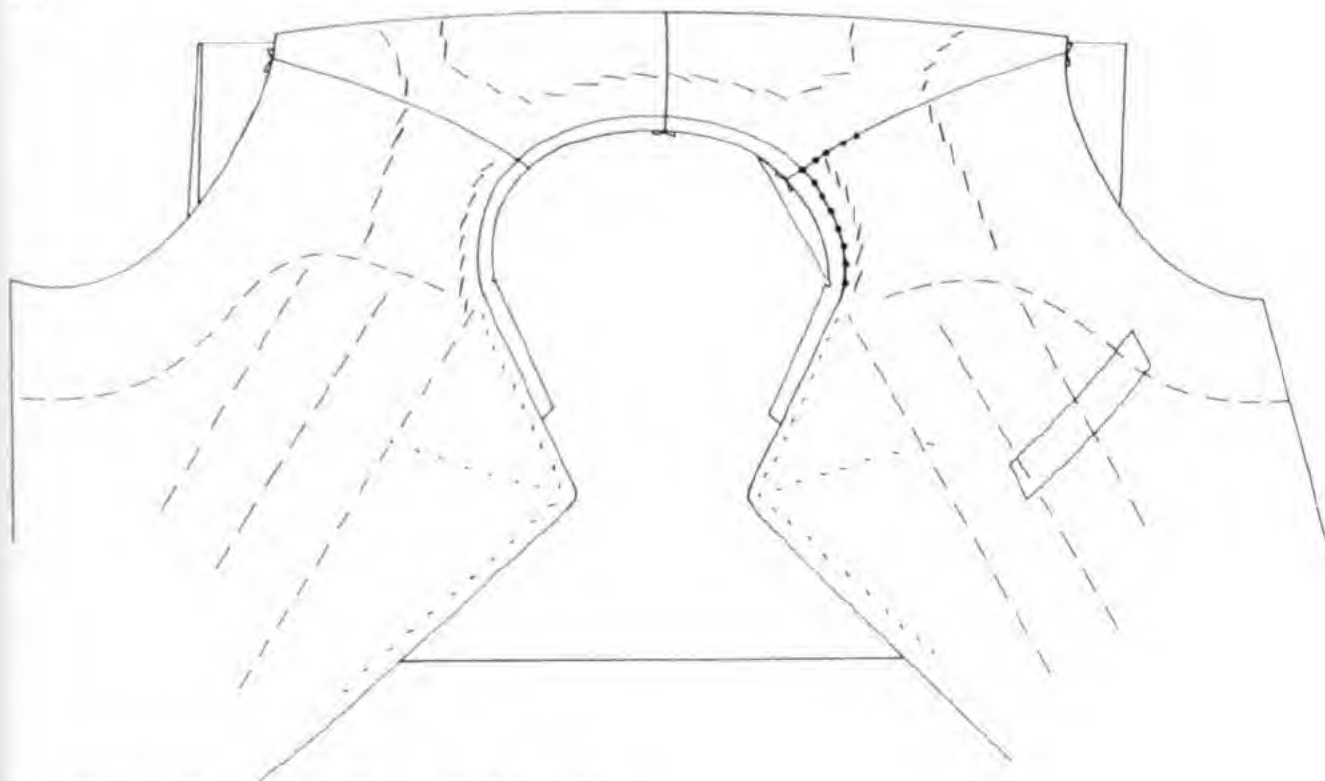


Trace around the lapel as far as the collar notch. Be careful not to mark the fabric.

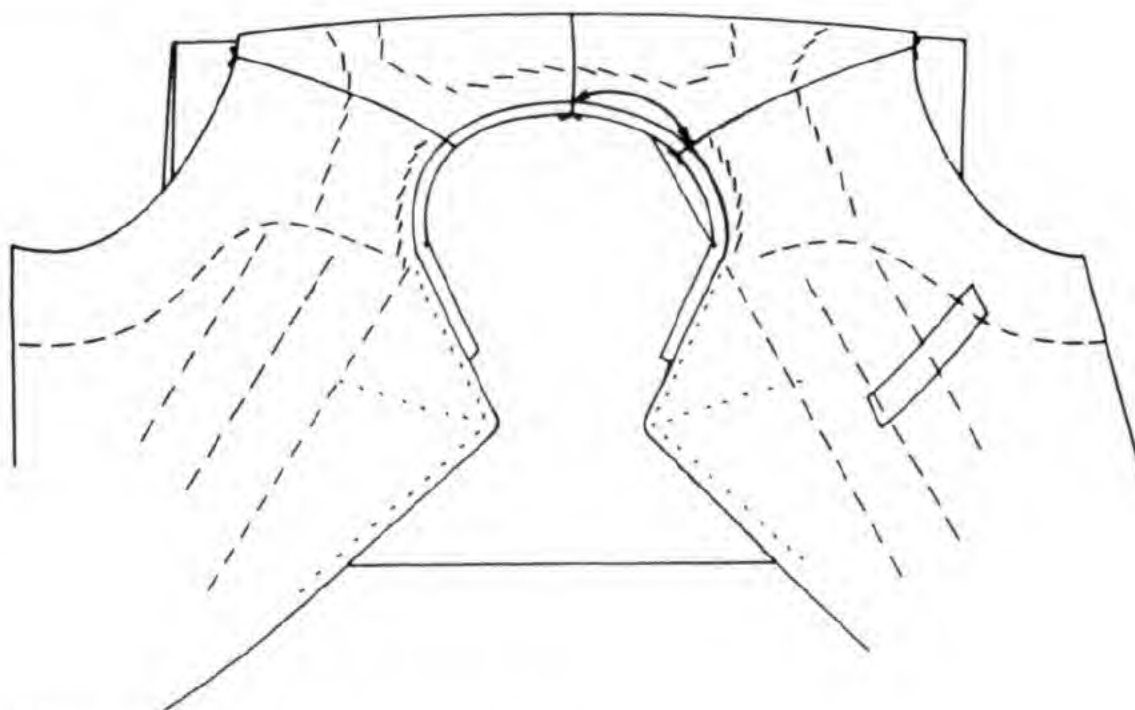




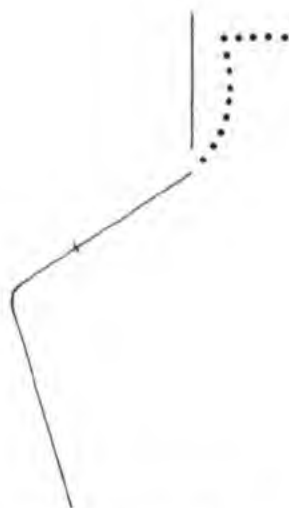
Gently fold back the seam allowance at the gorge line. Mark the collar notch, and the gorge line.



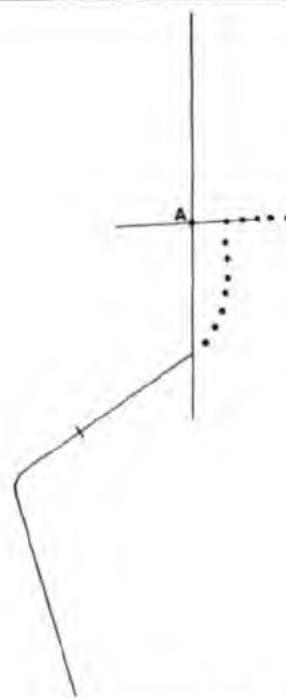
Pinprick through the fabric and the paper, along the neckline seam allowance from the roll line to the shoulder seam. Continue a few inches across the shoulder seam.



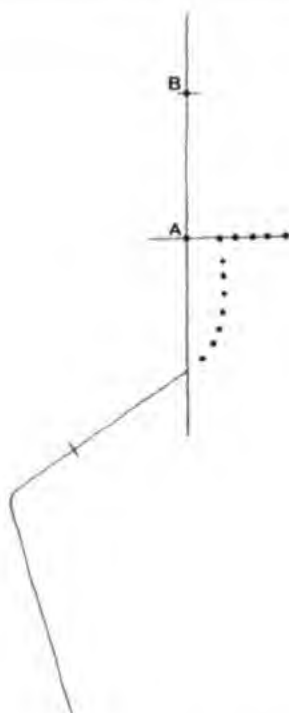
Measure the back neck stitchline from shoulder to center back. Use a ruler which you can curve, or a tapemeasure standing on end, to get an accurate measurement.



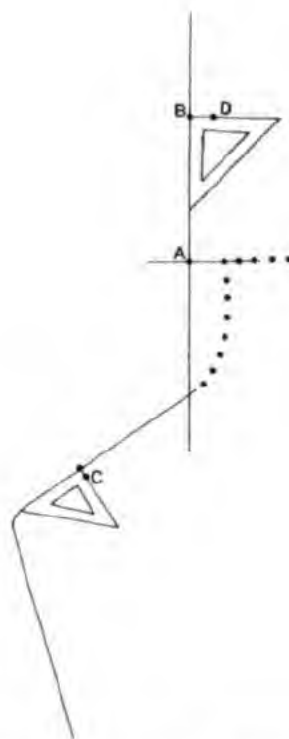
Remove the paper and open it out so that there is enough room to draft a collar. The information on the paper should look something like the markings in the illustration.



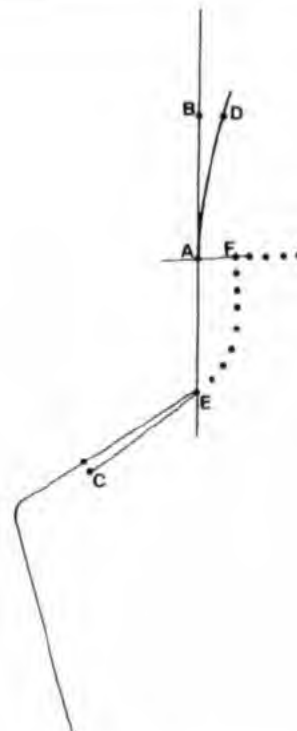
Extend the roll line and the shoulderline so that they intersect. Label the point of intersection A.



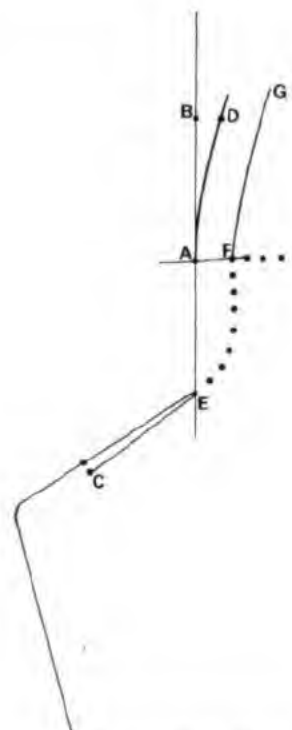
Measure up from A to a distance equal to the back neck measurement. Label B.



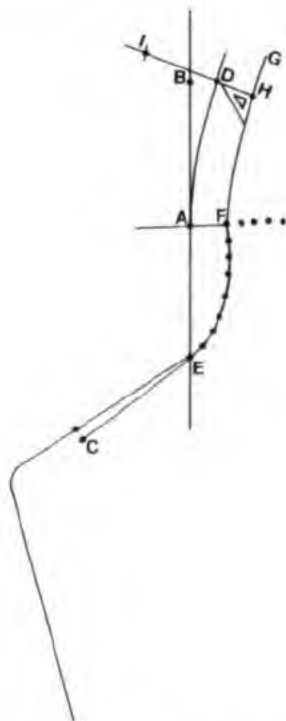
Square out from collar notch,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm). Label C. Square out from the center back,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm). Label D.



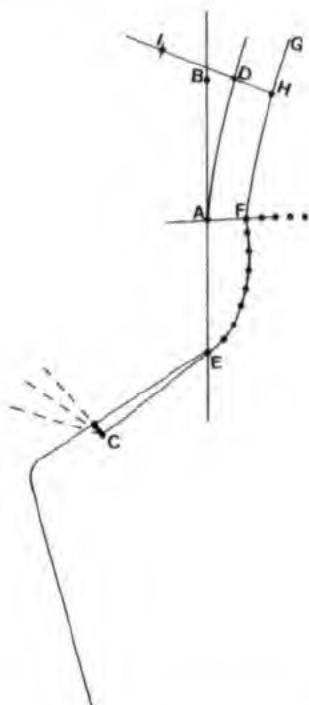
Label E, the point at which the neckline pinpricks meet the lapel. Draw a curved line, E-F, following the pinpricks. Draw a straight line from C to E, and a curved line from A to D.



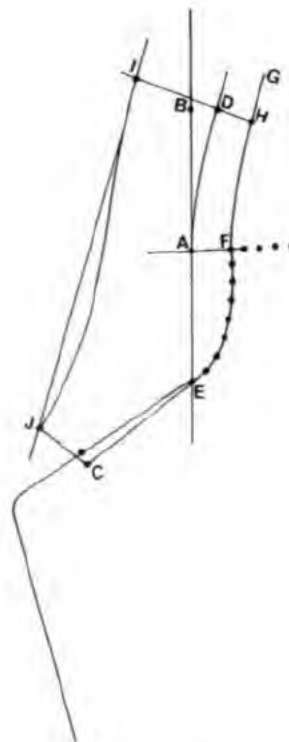
Draw a curved line, F to G, parallel to line A-D.



On line F-G, square out going through D and beyond. Label a point (I) on the line about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) above point D. This measurement D-I is the width of the collar at center back above the roll line.



The neck edge of your collar pattern, C-E-F-H, is now complete.



Draw out from point C, a style line for the front of the collar (J).

Draw a straight line from I to J, as a guide for the top of the collar, and then curve the line gracefully at the front.

The undercollar pattern, C-J-I-H-F-E-C, is now complete.

The collar roll line is E-A-D.

Cut out the collar draft and check the fit on the jacket.

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## THE SLEEVE

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For a tailor, the fall of a well-set sleeve is a thing of beauty. There is more involved here than simply fitting the top edge of the sleeve neatly into the jacket armhole.

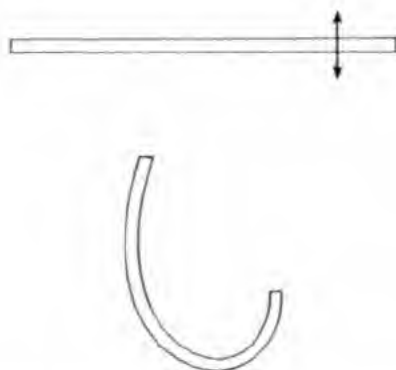
- The armhole is reinforced to prevent stretching.
- A muslin sleeve is prepared and set into the jacket. It is set to fall either forward or backward at the same angle the client's arm is held at rest.
- Using the information gathered from the muslin prototype, the garment fabric sleeve is cut, prepared, lined, and set.
- The sleeve head is added to produce a graceful draping of fabric out over the biceps.



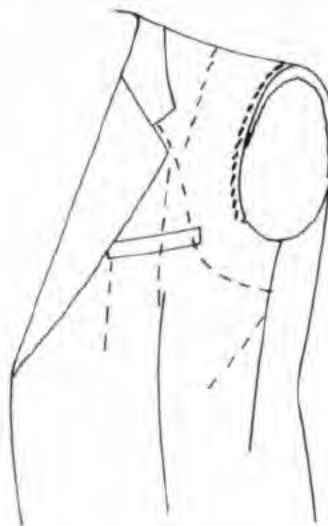
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## REINFORCING THE ARMHOLES

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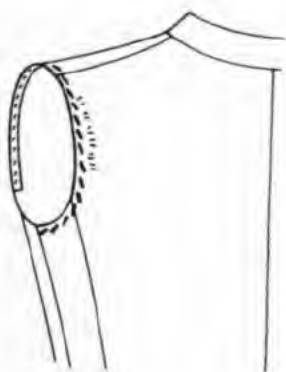


Before the sleeve is set, the armhole must be reinforced with a strip of pocketing to ensure against stretching. Cut a crossgrain strip of pocketing about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) wide and 20" (50.8 cm) long. Press it into a curve (as illustrated).



Place the pocketing strip on the wrong side of the jacket fabric, flush with the armhole cutting edge. The curved end of the strip is placed at the front armhole notch, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) forward of the center of the underarm.

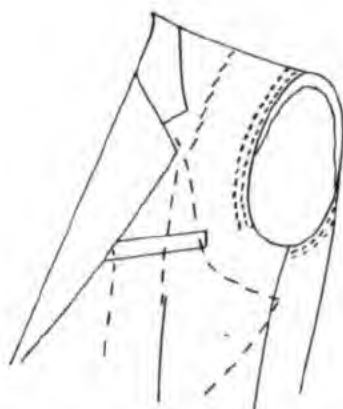
Working from the right side of the jacket, diagonally baste-stitch around the armhole, catching the outer edge of the pocketing strip underneath. Catch *only* the garment fabric and the pocketing, *avoiding* the shoulder pad completely.



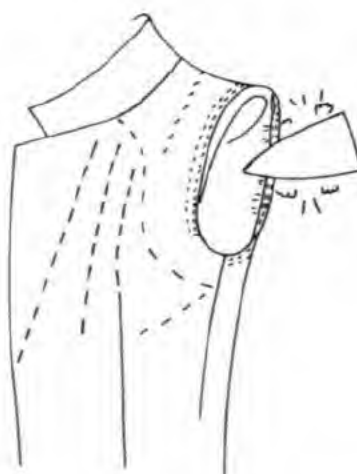
At a point about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) beyond the shoulder seam, at the back of the jacket, back-stitch on the tape and then begin basting tiny ripples of ease into the jacket fabric. This process continues to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) above the side panel seam, so that the rippled area is at shoulder-blade level on the jacket, and affords added ease for movement in this area.

The total amount of ease should not be more than  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm). On gabardines, or other tightly woven fabrics, the ease amount should be closer to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm). The ease is basted into the pocketing strip and tacked, top and bottom, so that it will stay where you have placed it.

Continue basting the pocketing strip down to about mid-underarm. The area from about mid-underarm forward about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) is not reinforced, so that there will be no restriction of the forward movement of the arm.



Baste around the armhole from the outside of the jacket a second time, this time catching the inner edge of the pocketing.



The ripples placed at the back of the armhole have brought extra ease beyond, to the shoulder-blade area. We can eliminate the ripples and still retain the ease by steam pressing carefully.

Steam press the rippled area, on the wrong side of the fabric, on a flat surface. Be careful to allow the iron to extend in from the armhole edge no more than about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) or so. A moderate amount of steam, applied flat and on top of the ripples, should shrink them away.

If you were to press further in on the fabric, while still on a flat surface, you would shrink away the ease which the ripples represent, and render the entire process useless.

Keep the iron out and at the edge of the armhole for now.

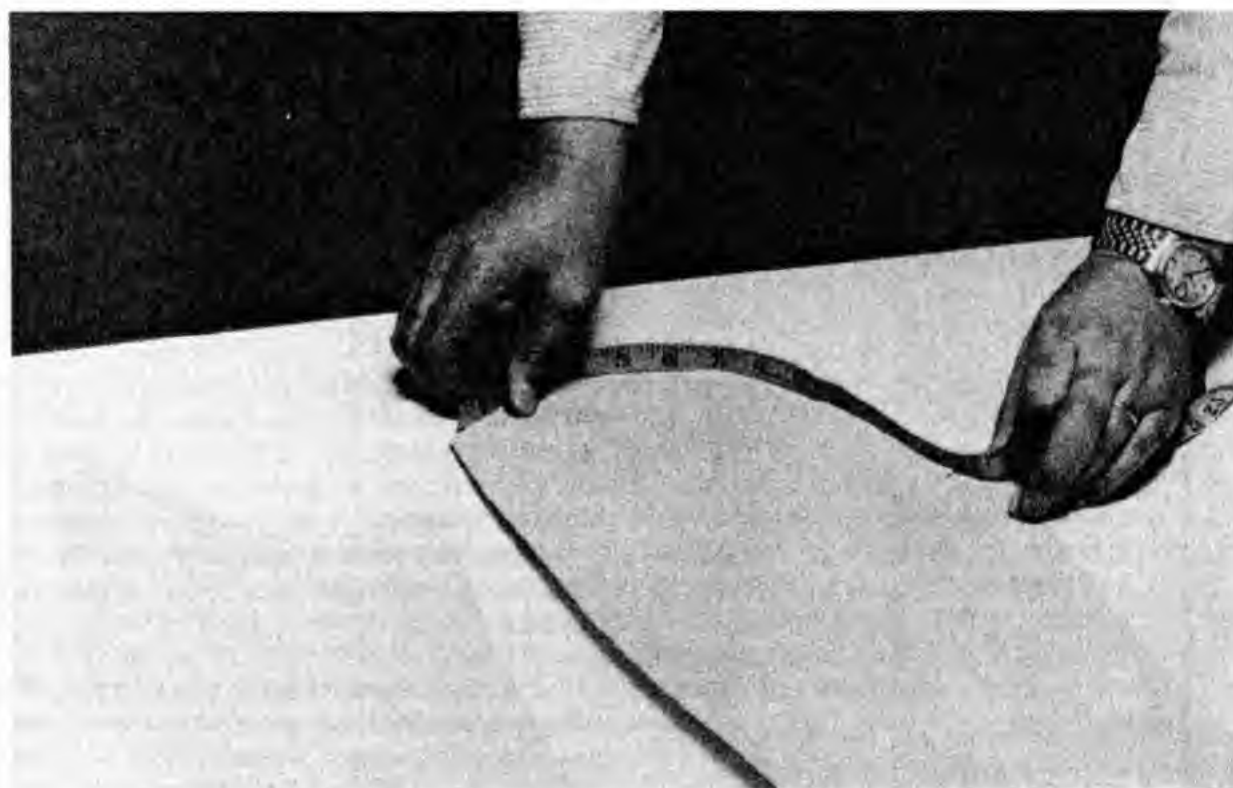
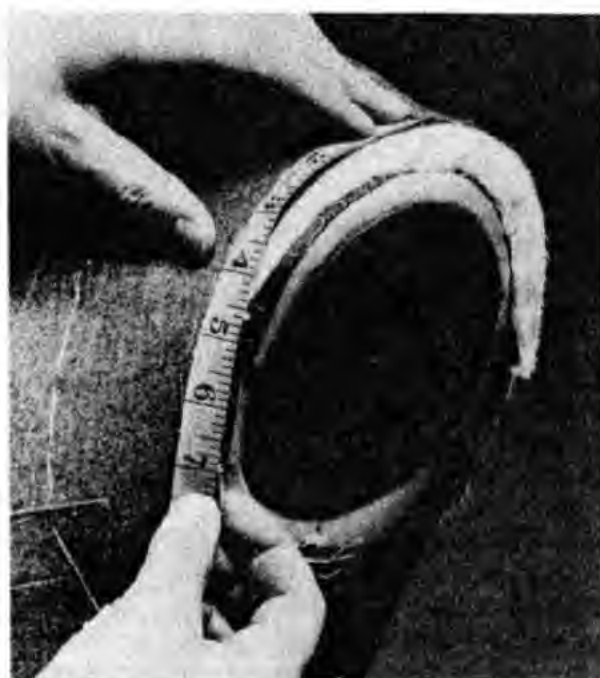
If you have trouble getting the ripples to disappear, you have probably placed too much ease in the area, and are dealing with a tightly woven fabric. If necessary, remove the pocketing strip and adjust the amount of ease. Do take care of the problem before continuing. Once the sleeve is sewn in, the ripples will be a permanent distraction.



## THE MUSLIN SLEEVE

You'll notice we haven't cut the sleeve yet. We haven't even cut a muslin sleeve. We've been waiting until the shoulder pads are placed in the jacket, and the armholes are reinforced, in order to get an accurate measurement of the jacket armholes. Once we have this measurement, we can cut a muslin sleeve with the right amount of ease all around.

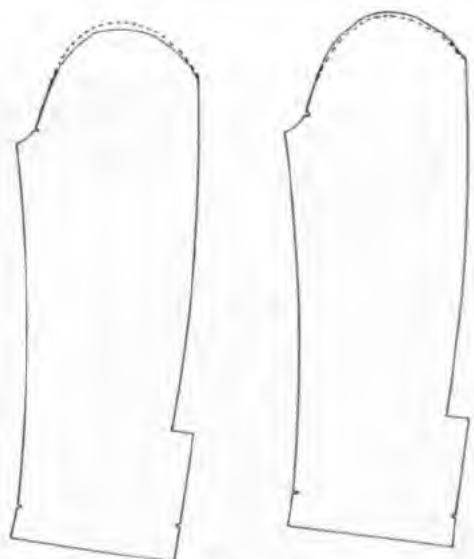
On the right side of the jacket, measure around the armhole cutting edge. It is somewhat difficult to measure a curved area, therefore, do it carefully, and double check your measurement.



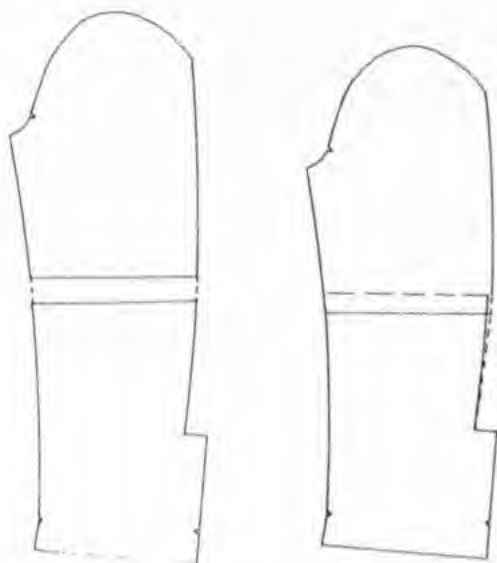
Compare this measurement with that of the cutting edge around the top of your sleeve pattern. Measure both the undersleeve and the topsleeve, being careful not to include your side seam allowances in this measurement.

The cutting edge around the top of the sleeve pattern should measure 2" (5 cm) to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"

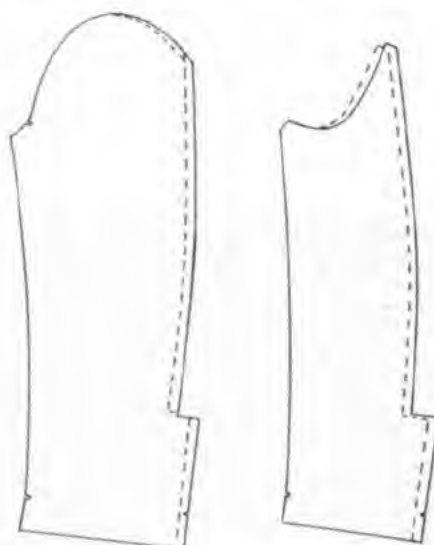
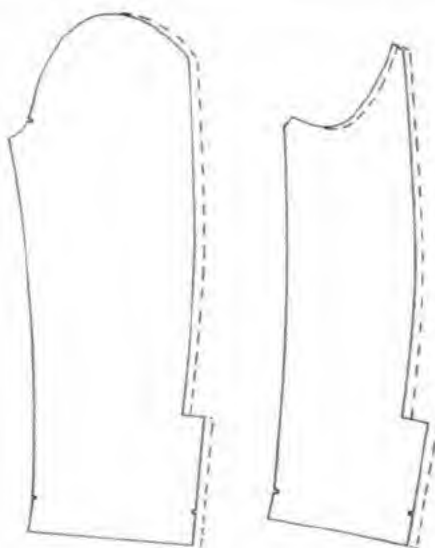
(5.7 cm) larger than the cutting edge around the jacket armhole. (For gabardines and other tightly woven fabrics, the measurement should not be more than 2" (5 cm).) This amount of ease is necessary to allow the sleeve to fall gracefully from the shoulder.



If the top edge of your sleeve pattern is not at least 2" (5 cm) larger than your armhole measurement, adjust the sleeve pattern by adding to or subtracting from the top edge of the topsleeve, tapering to nothing at the side seam allowances. The undersleeve is not adjusted. The maximum adjustment possible at the top of the topsleeve, before distorting the cap shape, is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm).



Check the sleeve length, measuring down the center of the topsleeve, from stitchline to hem fold. Using the sleeve measurement taken on page 19 as a guide, lengthen or shorten the sleeve by cutting the sleeve pattern at approximately elbow level. Separate or overlap the topsleeve pattern to achieve the correct length; and then blend the sides of the pattern using a hip curve. The undersleeve pattern is adjusted by the same amount as the topsleeve.



If further adjustment of the sleeve cap is necessary, it must now also involve the width of both the topsleeve and undersleeve in order to maintain the overall balance. Again, an adjustment of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) is the maximum suggested.

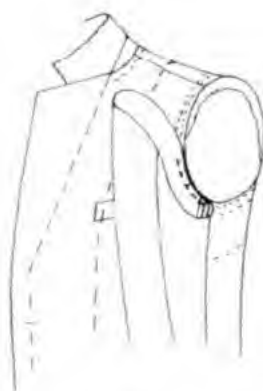
Adjust the pattern according to the illustrations, using a hip curve to taper your new lines gracefully.

If this adjustment should still prove insufficient, the answer is an entirely new sleeve pattern, one size larger or smaller.



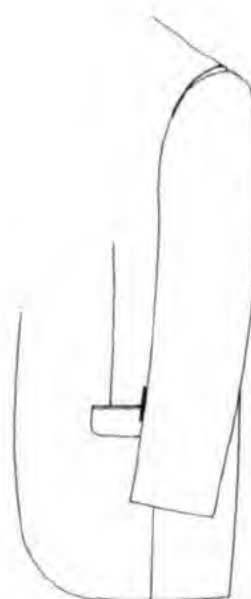
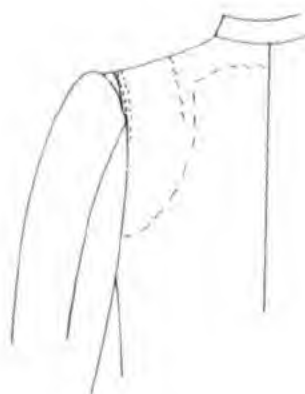
With the sleeve pattern adjusted, cut the muslin sleeve, sew the undersleeve and topsleeve together, and press the seams open.

On the right side of the fabric, press a crease in the topsleeve seam from the hem to about elbow level.

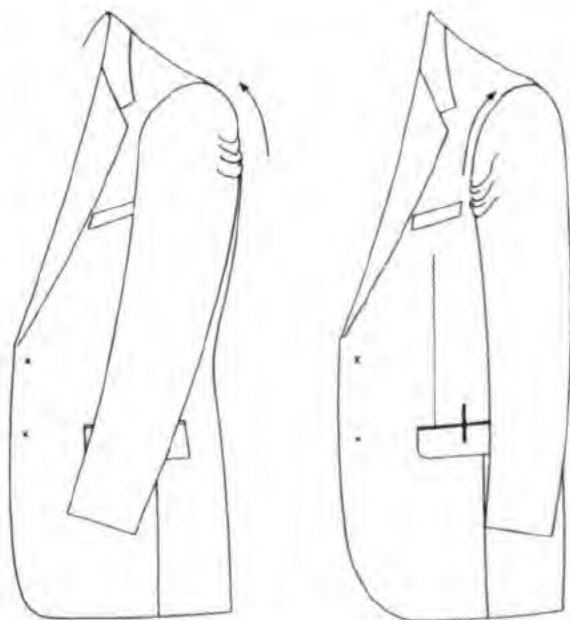


Use a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) seam allowance to set the sleeve, even if your pattern indicates  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 mm). Since we have already checked the armhole fit and the cap ease, this adjustment can be made without concern. It is much easier to work with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) seam than with a larger amount in a curved area. The bulk in the seam is reduced and the cap ease has more room to comfortably settle in.

It is best to use a model form to set the sleeve. With a model form, the entire armhole is in view, and the matching curves at the bottom front of the armhole and sleeve are clearly visible. This area is called the *front notch*, whether it is notched or not, and it is the first point at which the sleeve and armhole are tacked for a fitting.

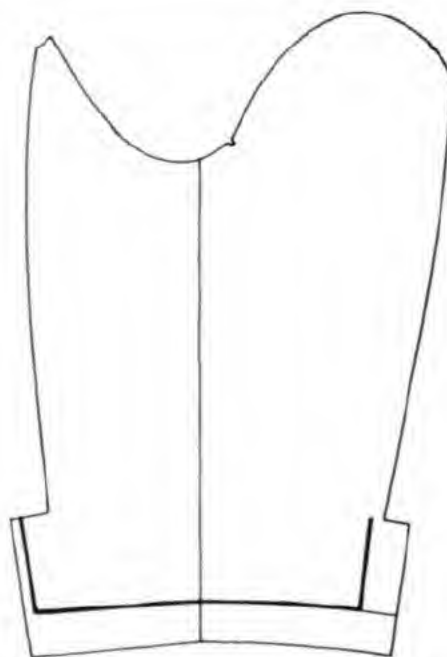


The point at which the back seam in the sleeve falls on the armholes, is called the *back notch*. In order to determine this point, hold the sleeve at the top, and allow it to fall forward until the hem touches the chalk guideline on the pocket. This chalkmark indicates how far forward your arm falls when held naturally. The sleeve must hang in that same position to be without creases when it is worn. Tack the back notch into the armhole at the point which allows the sleeve to fall forward to the chalk guideline.



With the front and back notches tentatively tacked, baste around the armhole, distributing the 2"–2 1/4" (5–5.7 cm) ease around the entire reinforced area of the armhole. Only the 2 1/2" (6.4 cm) area from center underarm forward is without ease in the sleeve. There may be some puckering at the cap of the muslin sleeve. However, if you have measured your armhole correctly, these puckers will be easy to control in the garment fabric.

Check the sleeve side view. If there are diagonal creases from the front or back of the sleeve pointing upwards, the sleeve should be set so that it falls a bit more forward or back, until the creases disappear. When the sleeve falls comfortably without these creases, chalkmark the front and back notches on the jacket, and the front notch on the sleeve. These notches should also be transferred to your pattern. (For plaid sleeves see page 171.)

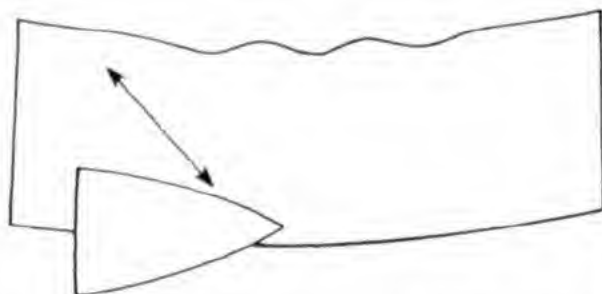


The sleeve length is to some degree a matter of preference. Comfort when wearing the jacket should be your main criterion. If you choose, allow about 1/2" (1.3 cm) of your shirt cuff to show below the hem of the sleeve. This too, is purely preference. Adjust the muslin sleeve length, and pin in place.

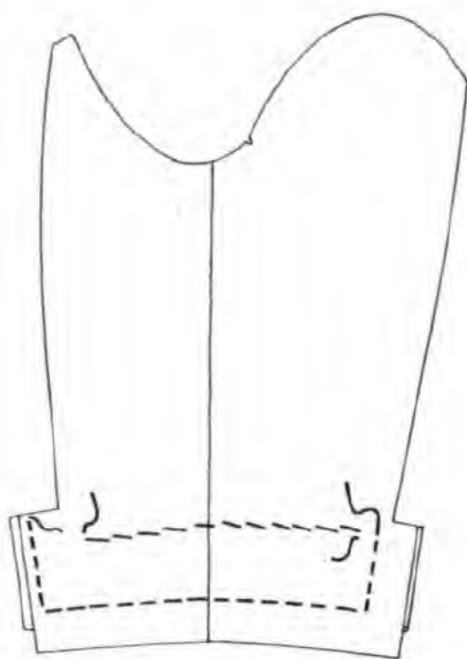
With all the pattern corrections made, the garment fabric sleeve can finally be cut with confidence.

Machine-stitch and press open the underseam. On the right side of the fabric, chalkmark the hem and vent foldlines. The foldline on the topvent is a continuation of the sleeve seamline. On the undervent, the foldline is 3/8" (1 cm) from the edge.

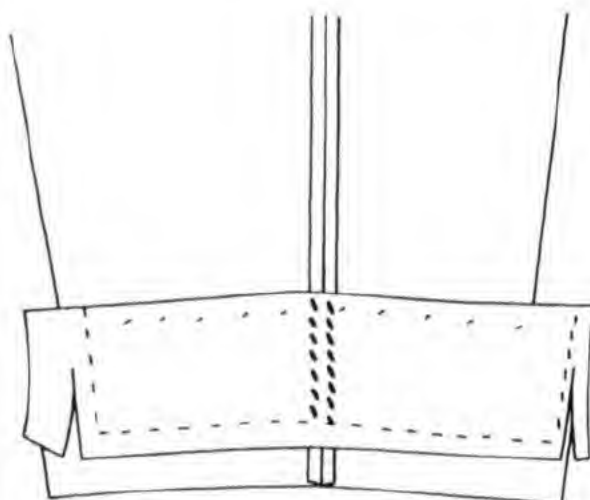
# THE SLEEVE VENTS



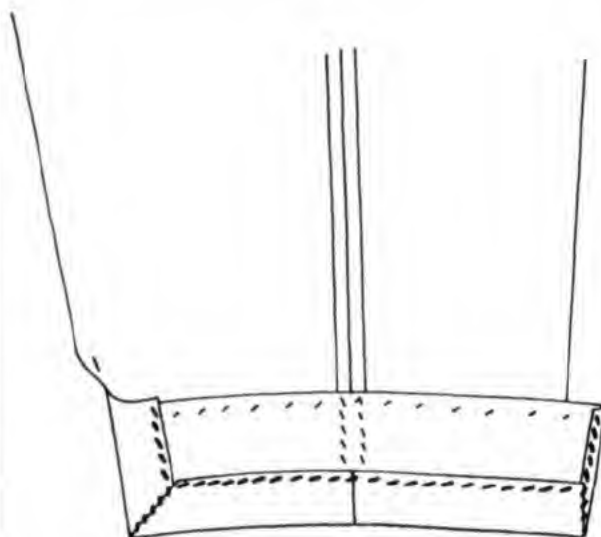
Cut a bias piece of pocketing to be used as reinforcement. 5" (12.7 cm) wide and long enough to extend from vent edge to vent edge at the bottom of the sleeve. Stream press the pocketing into a slight curve so that it will lie comfortably at the bottom of the sleeve, on the wrong side of the garment fabric.



Baste along the chalklines at the bottom of the sleeve, catching the pocketing reinforcement, and diagonally baste-stitch across the top of the reinforcement.

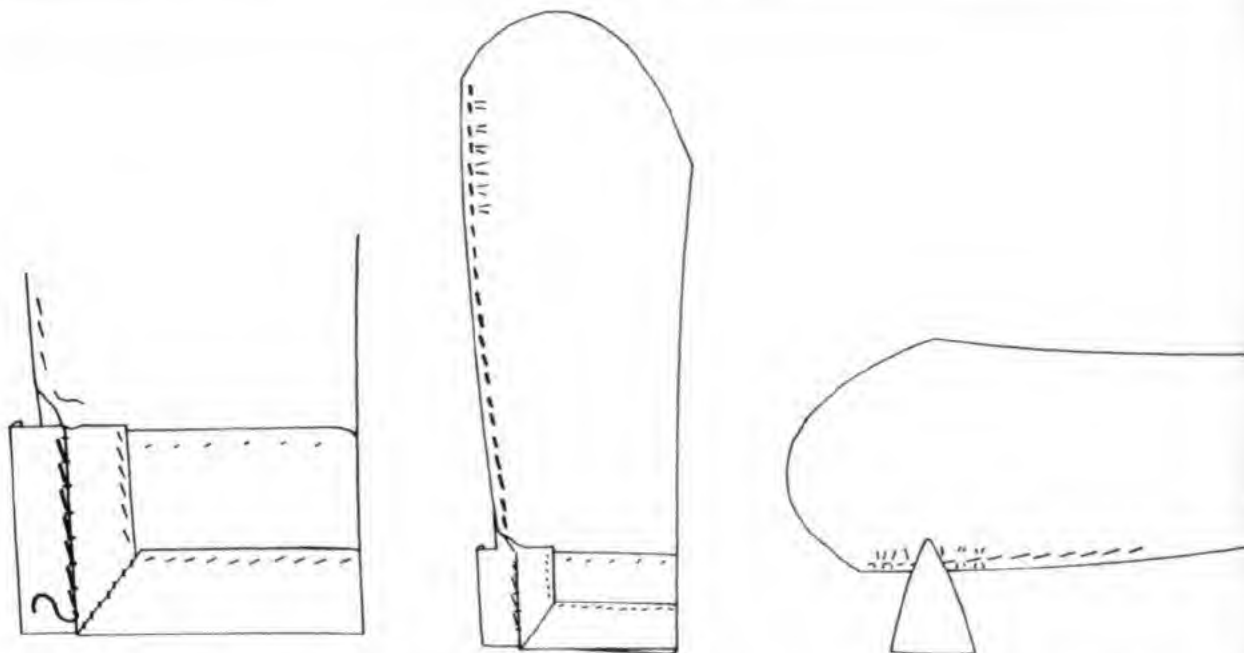


Trim the sides of the pocketing very close to the basting on the undersleeve vent, and about 1/2" (1.3 cm) from the basting on the topvent. Diagonal-stitch the reinforcement into the sleeve seam allowance, above the hem.



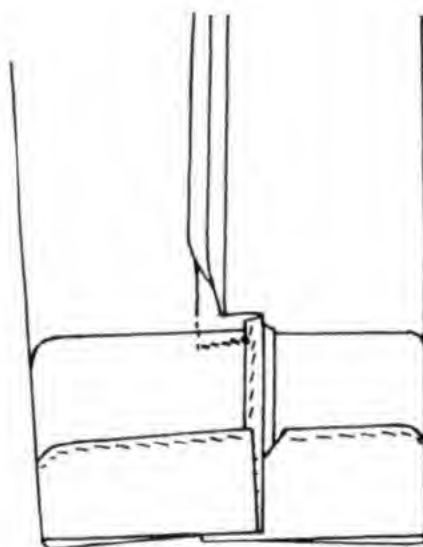
Fold and press, first the vents, and then the hem, using the basting lines as guides. Fold the bottom of the topvent into a miter, and press well. Unless the fabric is extremely bulky, we suggest that you do not trim the excess fabric in the corner. The fold will give a certain amount of appropriate body to the topvent. It will also afford you the option of lengthening the sleeve, should this be desirable sometime in the future.

Diagonal-stitch the vents and hem into the pocketing, using silk finishing thread, and slip-stitch the sides.



With the topvent  $1/16''$  (1.5 mm) longer than the undervent, baste first the vent, and then the sleeve seam closed. The topsleeve seam should be about  $3/8''$  (1 cm) longer than the undersleeve (see page 160). (For gabardine, or other tightly woven fabrics,  $1/4''$  (6 mm) is bet-

ter.) Place this ease in the top third of the topsleeve seam, and steam press the puckers out, before machine-stitching the seam. Press on a flat surface, making sure that the iron extends onto the fabric no more than about  $1 1/2''$  (3.8 cm).

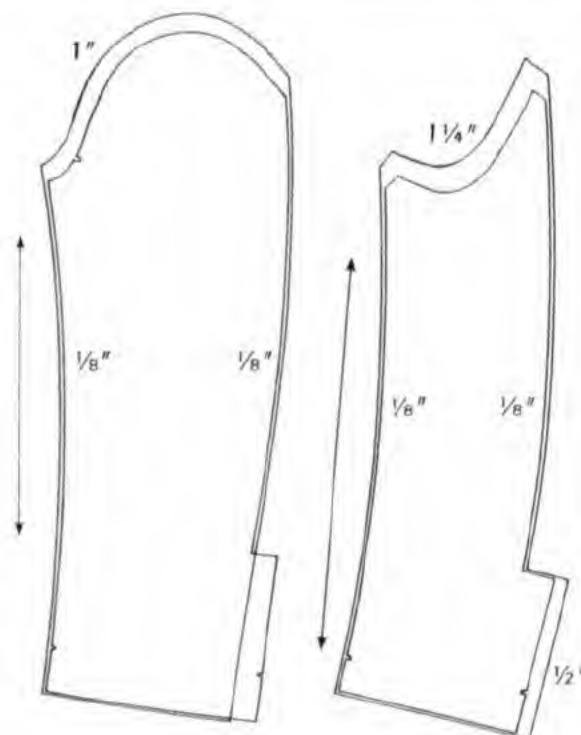


Machine-stitch the topseam to  $1/4''$  (6 mm) below the top of the vent, and press the seam open. Fold and press the seam allowance on a diagonal just above the top of the vent, instead of clipping the seam allowance here and weakening the area.

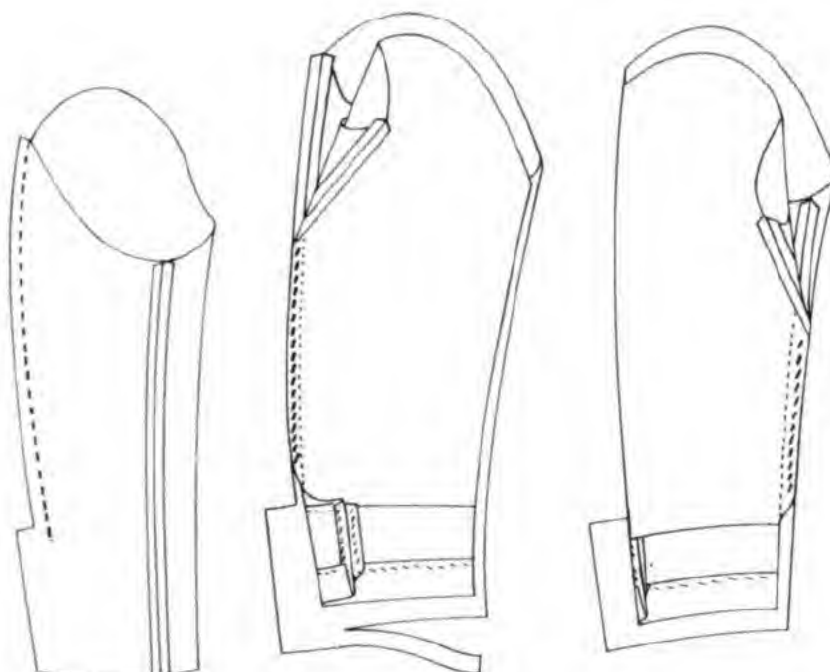
Back-stitch the tops of the vent together using silk finishing thread. The sleeve is now ready to be lined.



# --- LINING THE SLEEVE ---



The sleeve lining is cut using the sleeve pattern. Trace around the sleeve pattern, cutting the lining larger than the sleeve by the amounts indicated. Note that the vent on the topsleeve is eliminated.

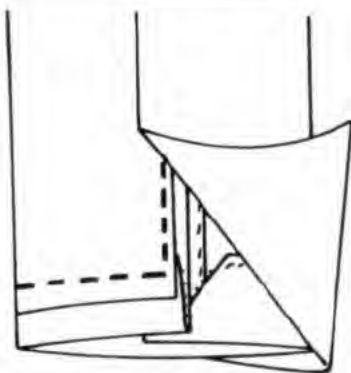


Machine-stitch the lining topsleeve and undersleeve together, and press the seams open.

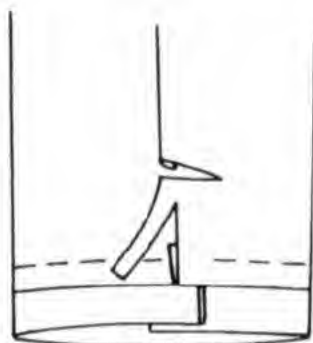
With both the lining and sleeve inside out, place the two together, undersleeve to undersleeve. A  $3/4$ " (1.9 cm) margin of lining should be visible above the sleeve. Beginning about 4" (10.2 cm) from the top of the top seam, diagonally

baste one layer of lining seam allowance to one layer of sleeve seam allowance. Baste to just above the top of the vent. Trim the lining to 1" (2.5 cm) below the sleeve hem fold.

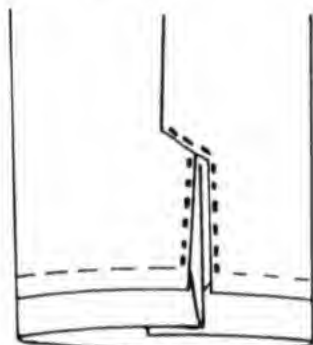
Repeat the process at the undersleeve seam.



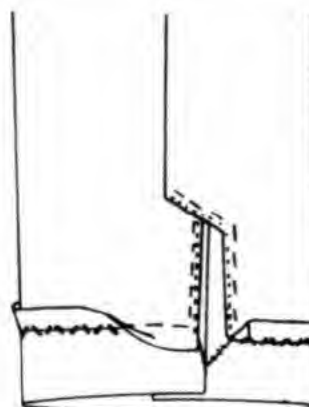
Reach into the lining, and turn the sleeve to the lining side, so that you can work on the lining hem and vent. Fold and baste the lining along the edge of the undervent (the undervent is on top when viewed from this side); and fold the lining hem about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) above the hem of the sleeve. Baste the lining hem about 1" (2.5 cm) above its fold, so that you will be able to lift it up for hand-stitching, shortly.



The top layer of lining is now slashed horizontally, about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the bottom of the lining seam. The slash extends across, just past the edge of the undervent. This frees the lining to be folded along the garment fabric at the edge of the topvent.



The lining is folded on the diagonal at the top of the vent and basted in place. The sides and top of the vent lining are finished with a hand back-stitch, using silk thread.



Lift the lining at the hem, and hem-stitch one layer of lining into the garment fabric hem.



Turn the sleeve to the right side, and with the lining settled in place, baste across the topsleeve about 8" (20.3 cm) or so from the top, catching the topsleeve lining. This will hold the lining in place while you set the sleeve. Press the sleeve on the right side, on a flat surface, using a presscloth. Press a light crease in the topseam from elbow to hem.

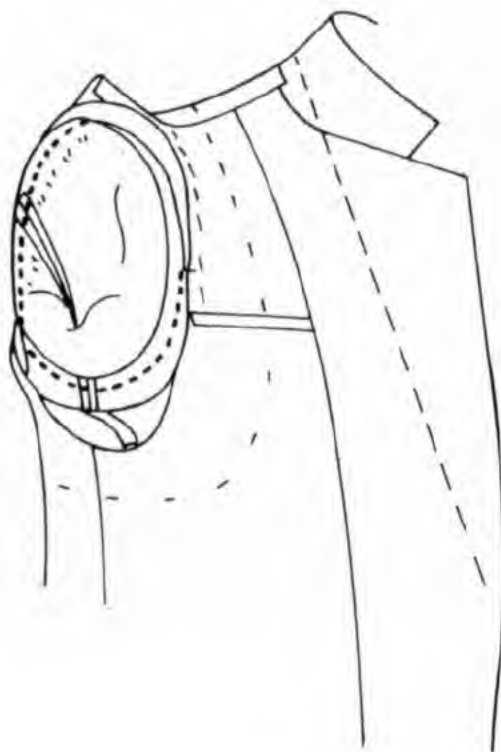
## SETTING THE SLEEVE



The garment fabric sleeve is set into the jacket just as the muslin sleeve was set. This time, however, you have the benefit of the front and back notches as guides.

Baste the sleeve using a straight running-stitch about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) long, with spaces of about the same length in between. If your stitches are too small, the ease will have no room to settle in. *Do not* be discouraged if it takes two or three attempts to baste the sleeve in so that it hangs without rippling at the cap when viewed from the outside.

Once you are pleased with the hang of the sleeve, baste around the armhole a second time, stitching between the first stitches. This *lock-stitch* is done to hold the ease securely in place, and to prevent the possibility of the sleeve shifting during machine-stitching.



There is one more step to take before machine-stitching the sleeve. On the wrong side of the fabric, steam press on a flat surface, and shrink away the ripples at the top of the sleeve seam allowance. Be careful to press in from the armhole edge no more than one inch or so. If you steam press further, you will be shrinking the ease in the sleeve cap which you have so carefully created. You need the ease. Shrink away *only* the ripples.

Tuck the shoulder pad out of the way and machine-stitch around the armhole, catching only the garment fabric of the sleeve and armhole, and the pocketing reinforcement strip.



# TACKING THE ARMHOLES

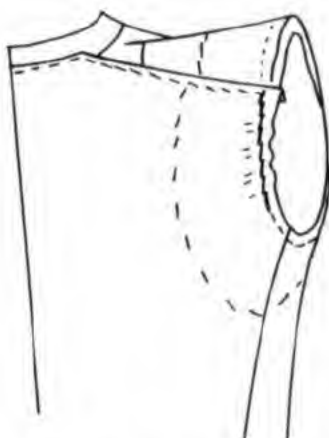


The sleeve is set, but the shoulder and armhole area still needs some attention. The jacket lining is loose at the back armhole, and the shoulder pad needs to be tacked into the armhole seam allowance. With this completed, you'll be able to attach the *sleeve head*, and close the sleeve lining.

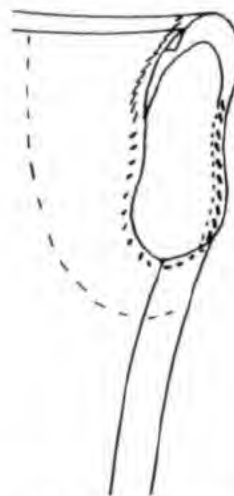
With one hand inside the jacket, giving shape to the shoulder area, smooth the fabric



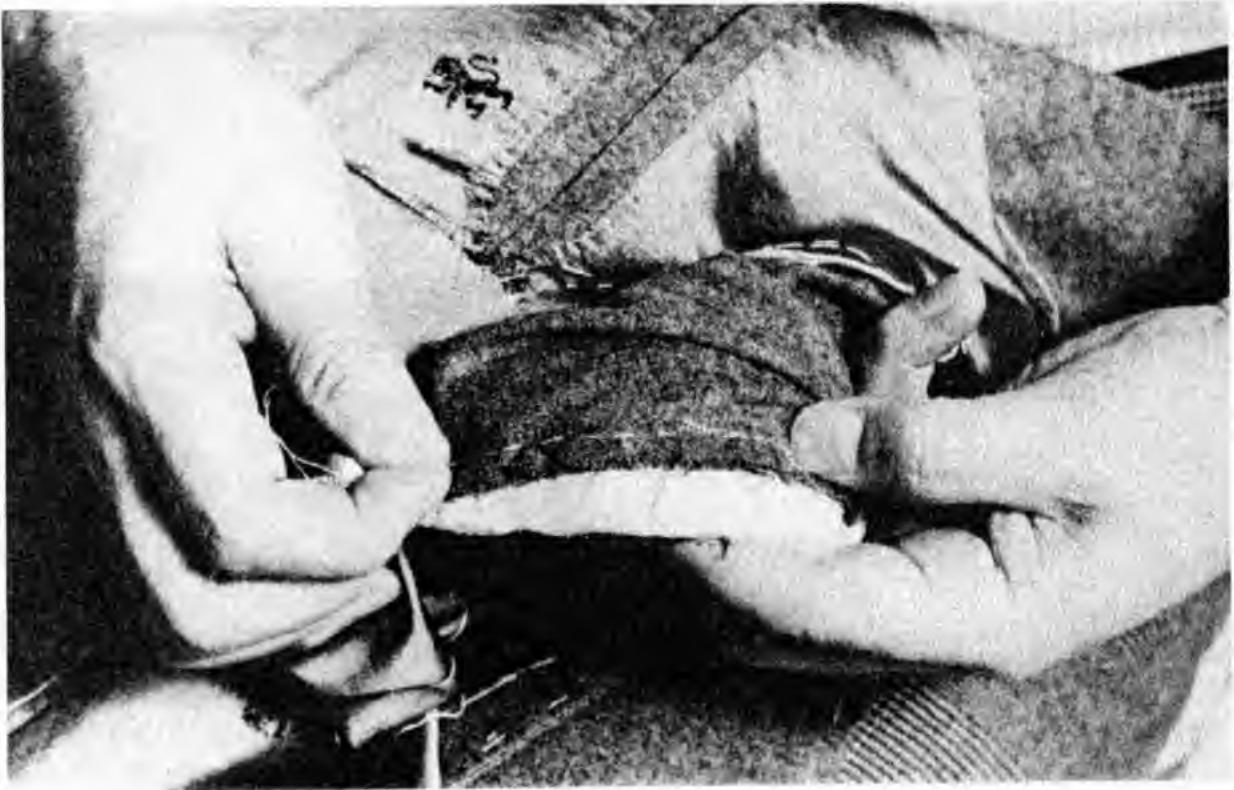
around the armhole towards the sleeve seam. Baste from the front notch up and over the shoulder, to the end of the shoulder pad. As you baste from the front notch to the beginning of the shoulder pad, catch the lining. As you continue up and over the shoulder, catch one layer of the shoulder pad.



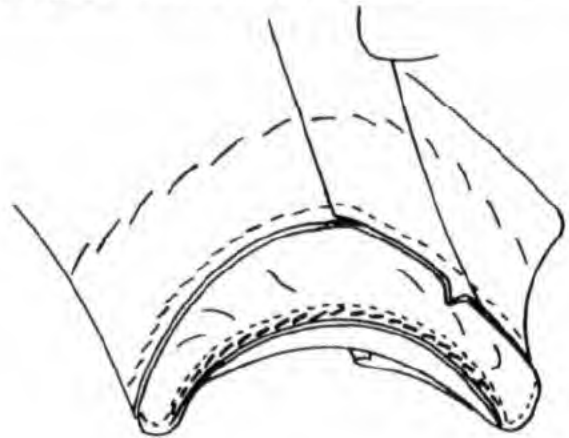
On the inside of the jacket back, the lining is still loose at the armhole. Baste from the underarm up the back of the armhole, as far as the lining shoulder seam. Use a large back-stitch, and place a bit of ease in the back lining as you baste.



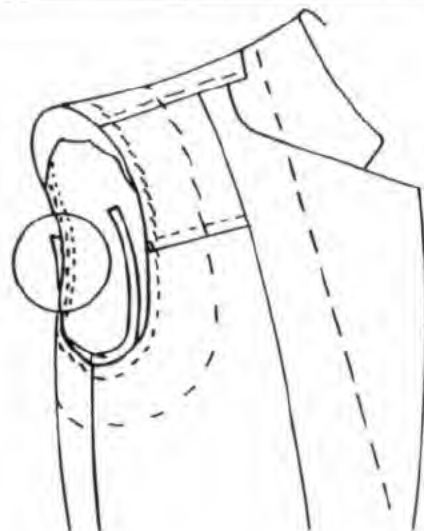
Shoulder pad, jacket lining, pocketing, sleeve, and jacket, all meet in the armhole seam allowance. Baste around the armhole, tacking all these layers together, so that the shoulder seam becomes a firm unshifting line. Tack first, the area of seam allowance untouched by the shoulder pad. The stitch is a diagonal-stitch,  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) beyond the machine stitchline, in the seam allowance.



Since you are working with the jacket inside out, be aware that the shoulder pad is now curving in a direction opposite to that which it will take when the jacket is worn. Before you baste the shoulder pad into the armhole seam allowance, force the shoulder pad into the correct curve. Experiment, by turning the jacket right side out, in order to be sure of the proper direction of the curve. It is not necessary to baste through the entire shoulder pad. One layer of the padding caught in the seam allowance is sufficient.



If necessary, the shoulder pad and lining are now trimmed flush with the garment fabric seam allowance. Be careful not to trim away the small edge of seam allowance from the side panel back seam. If you do, you eliminate the possibility of ever letting the jacket out in this area.

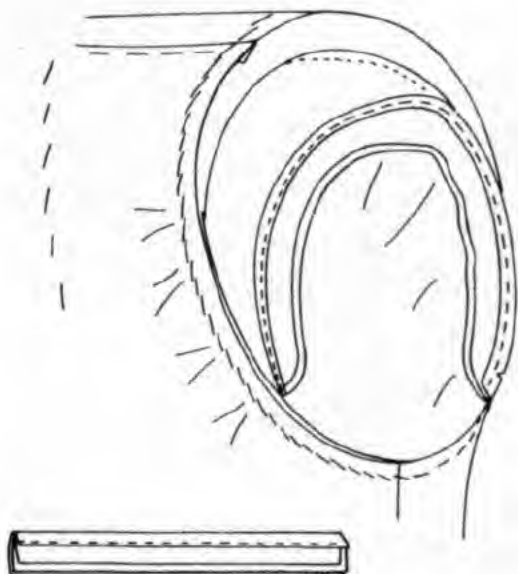




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# THE SLEEVE HEAD

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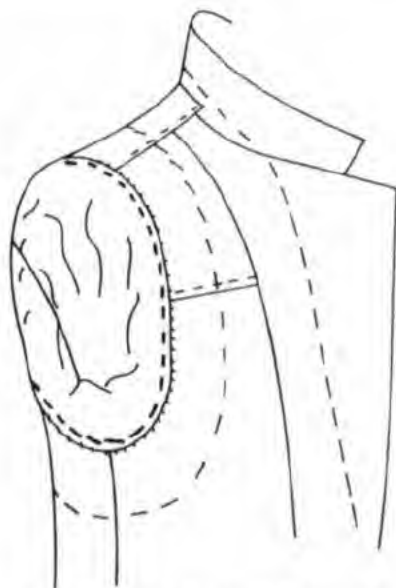


The sleeve head is a strip of cotton wadding, covered with muslin and with a strip of bias canvas interfacing. Its job is to fill out the cap of the sleeve a bit, and to create a graceful fall of the fabric at the top of the sleeve.

The head is inserted into the sleeve with the canvas facing up, and hand-stitched into the



seam allowance using silk thread. Place the edge of the head even with the edge of the seam allowance, from the front notch, over the shoulder and down to about 2" (5 cm) below the back notch.



The sleeve lining is now brought up to be basted along the armhole edge, just covering the basting already there. Fold back about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) at the top of the lining and check that the seams in the lining are aligned with the seams in



the sleeve. A twisted lining will distort the hang of the sleeve, and will be very uncomfortable to wear. Slip-stitch the sleeve lining into the armhole seam allowance using silk finishing thread.



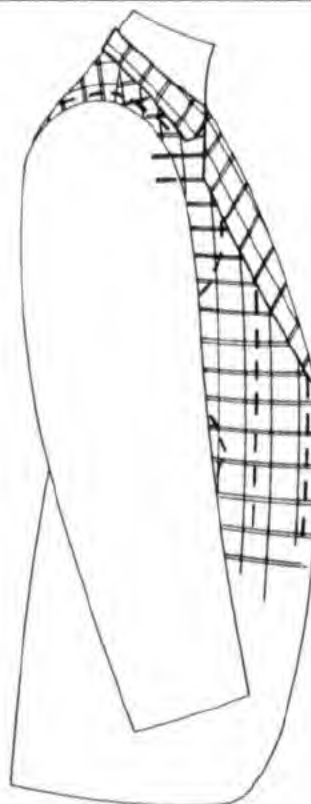
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## THE PLAID SLEEVE

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If you are working with a plaid fabric, the sleeve must be cut so that the horizontal design lines on the sleeve match those across the jacket front. (Because of the ease in the sleeve cap, the horizontal lines on the sleeve will *not* match those on the jacket back.)

With the muslin sleeve well set, draw two or three horizontal guidelines on the front of the muslin to indicate the placement of the horizontal bars of the plaid design. Transfer these guidelines to the front of your sleeve front paper pattern, and use them as a layout guide.



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## BUTTONS AND BUTTONHOLES

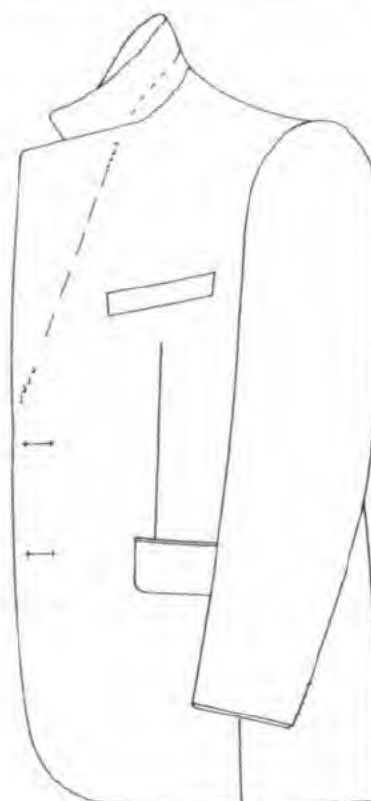
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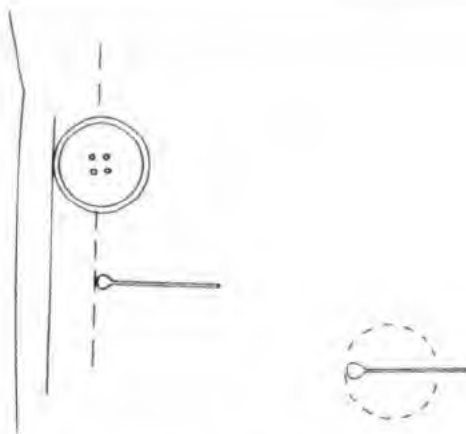
The choice of buttons for a fine tailored men's jacket should be in keeping with the high quality of the rest of the garment.

The buttons for a business or dress suit are in best taste if they are all but unnoticed on the finished jacket. Dull horn or bone buttons, close in color to the jacket fabric, are most traditional. Shiny plastic buttons are glaringly inappropriate on fine fabric. For a navy blazer, a more flamboyant silver or gold button is common; or leather buttons for sports jackets.

The jacket button is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) in diameter, the sleeve button is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm).

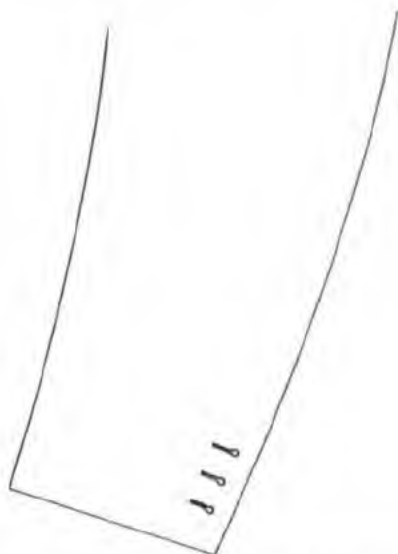
The top buttonhole on a jacket which has a lapel, should be placed about  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) below the bottom of the lapel roll line. If the button is placed lower or higher, the lapel will begin to roll just above whatever point that happens to be.





The buttonhole begins in from the edge of the finished jacket a distance equal to one half the diameter of the button, plus  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm).

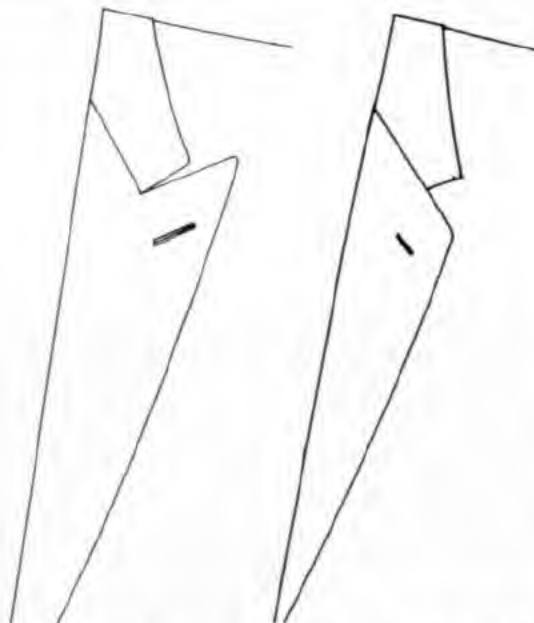
The size of the jacket buttonhole is equal to the diameter of the button, plus a "small"  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm).



On the sleeve, real buttonholes are a distinctly custom touch. The buttonholes begin  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (3.2 cm) above the hem fold, and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) away from the fold at the edge of the topvent. If three buttons are used on the sleeve, the buttonholes are placed  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) apart. If four buttons are preferred, the buttonholes are placed  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) apart, so that the buttons will be almost touching.

The size of the sleeve buttonhole is equal to one half the diameter of the button, plus  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm).

Handworked buttonholes, reinforced with gimp, for a crisp edge, are a hallmark of custom tailoring. Machine buttonholes work as well, but are not nearly as beautiful.



If you choose to add a lapel buttonhole, it should be cut parallel to the top of the lapel. The buttonhole on a *peak lapel* will, therefore, slant *upward*. On a *square lapel* it will slant *downward*.

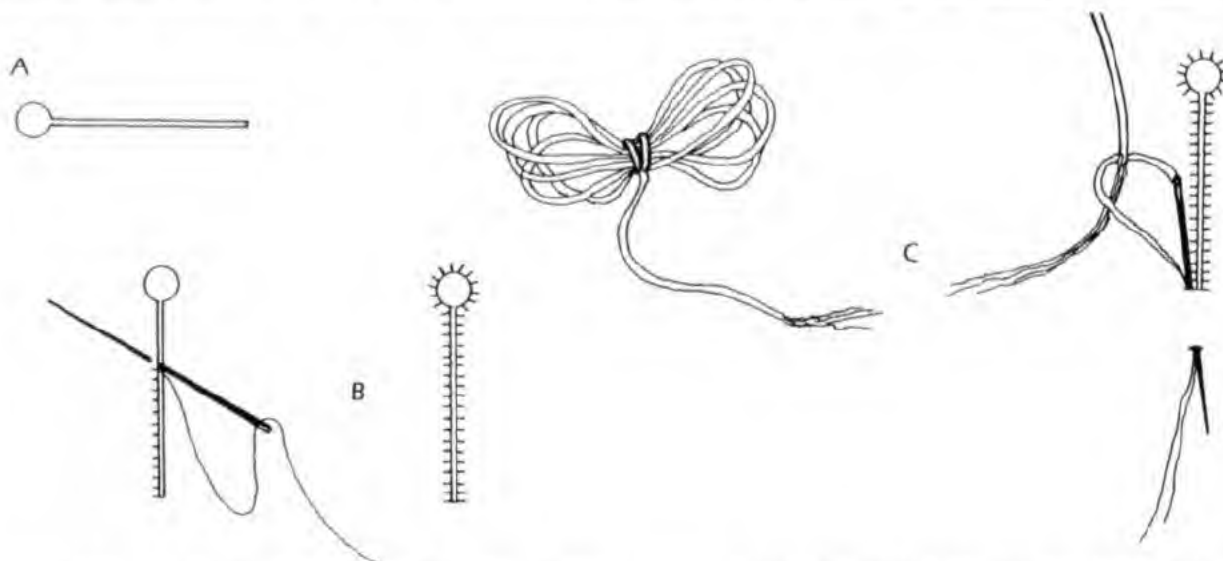


The length of the buttonhole is between  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) and 1" (2.5 cm) depending on the width of the lapel, and since it will not actually be used for a button, there is no keyhole cut at the end.

The buttonhole is placed about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) below the top of the lapel and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) in from the edge.

On the wrong side of the lapel, about 1" (2.5 cm) below the buttonhole, a thread loop is sewn. This serves to hold the stem of a small flower boutonnière.

# CONSTRUCTING THE BUTTONHOLES



Snip the buttonhole through the jacket front, the canvas, and the facing. At the end of the buttonhole closest to the jacket edge, cut a small keyhole.

Trim away the canvas around the very edge of the buttonhole, so that stray white canvas threads do not find their way into the buttonhole stitches.

Using silk finishing thread, blanket-stitch around the buttonhole to control the fraying threads. These stitches will not be seen in the finished buttonhole.

Insert a threaded needle, eye first, under the jacket fabric and the canvas, and have it exit about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm) before the end of the buttonhole.

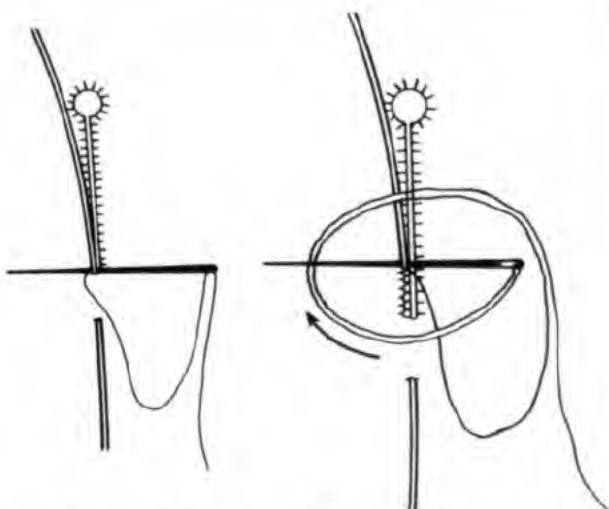
Peel away about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) of the outer layer at the end of the gimp, so that the end is thinner than the rest; and insert the peeled end of the gimp into the thread loop.

You needn't cut a small piece of gimp for the buttonhole. Use the end of the entire yard or so you have purchased, and cut the gimp only after the buttonhole is complete.

Pull the sharp end of the needle, and the thread ends, and draw the gimp through the fabric. Anchored in this position, the gimp will lie on top of the buttonhole, right at the edge, while the buttonhole is stitched. *Do not* allow the gimp to fall into the slit in the fabric, as this will produce a wider opening than you want.

Cut one yard of silk buttonhole twist, wax it well, and press the twist between two sheets of paper. The heat will melt the wax into the thread and give it added body.

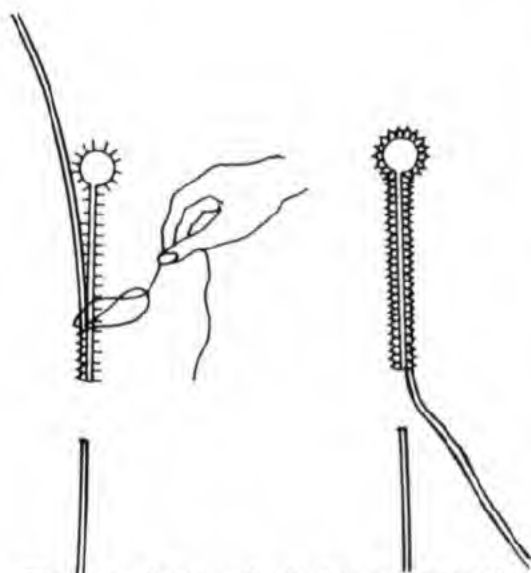




The buttonhole twist is used as a single thread, knotted at the bottom.

Hold the jacket so that the keyhole in the buttonhole is at the top, and take the first stitch at the base of the buttonhole. Hide the knot between the layers of fabric.

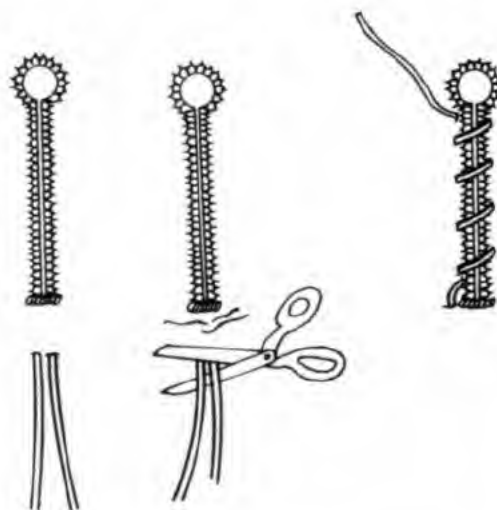
For each stitch, bring the double end of the thread in a clockwise movement, across the bottom of the buttonhole and up under the needle.



Place the knot, which this movement produces, right on top of the gimp with a firm pull of the thread.

Stitch around the buttonhole, encircling the gimp with thread. The stitches should be about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) deep and quite close to one another, but not necessarily touching.

At the keyhole, the stitches should fan out, the outer ends of the stitches being a bit farther apart than the inner ends.



When you have stitched around the entire buttonhole, cut the gimp and bring the end under the canvas and out, as you did before, using the threaded needle.

Bartack at the base of the buttonhole and secure the stitch on the inside.

The ends of the gimp are pulled until a ripple appears in the fabric between the buttonhole and the gimp. If you snip the gimp close to the fabric, the ends will disappear under the canvas.

Whip-stitch the buttonhole closed until after the final pressing.

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## SETTING THE BUTTONS

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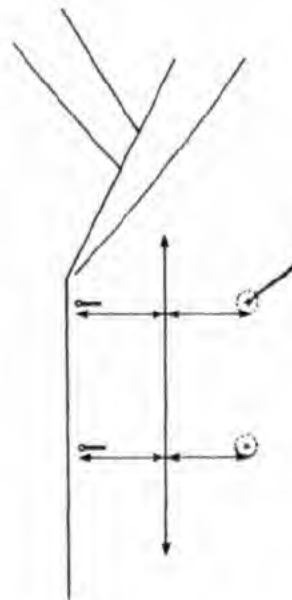


To mark the button placement on a single-breasted jacket, place the two fronts of the jacket together, facings touching.

Place a pin through the keyhole of the buttonhole to mark the button placement on the right side of the jacket.

Marking the button placement for a double-breasted jacket is somewhat more complicated, since there are both buttons and buttonholes on both sides of the jacket.

The buttonholes are placed on the left side of a double-breasted jacket using the same measurements as were used for the single-breasted jacket.



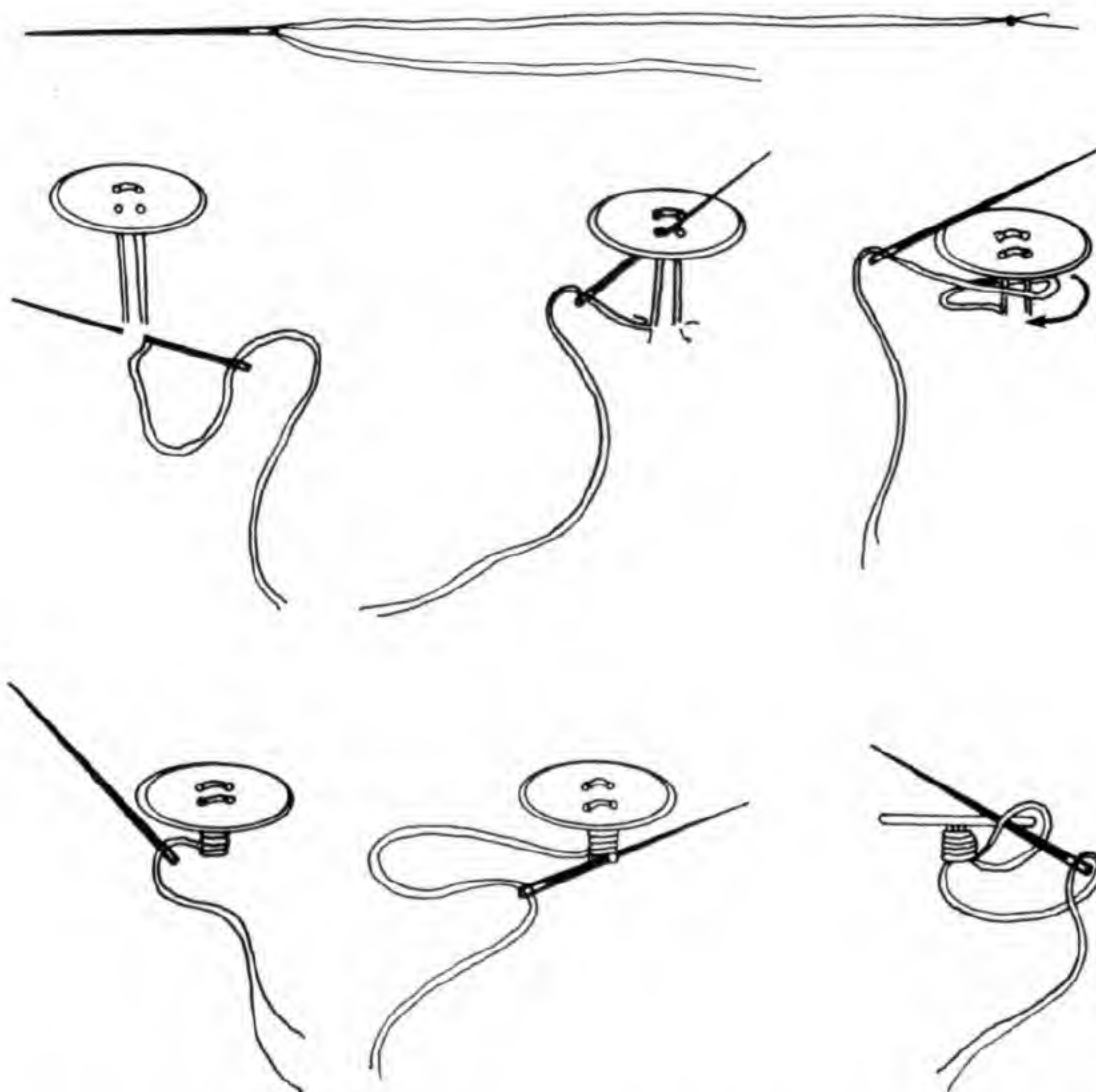
The placement of the buttons on the left side of the jacket is determined by measuring from the keyhole to the center front line, and applying this measurement from the center front line away from the jacket edge.

With the jacket closed, and the center front guidelines matching, place a pin through the top button mark on the left side of the jacket. This pin will indicate the placement of the one buttonhole which is needed on the right side of the jacket. It also indicates the placement of the one button which must be placed on the inside of the left side of the jacket.

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Once the placement of buttons and buttonholes which fall below the lapel have been completed, two buttons are attached to the jacket above the bottom of the lapel, one on either side of the jacket. The vertical distance between all buttons remains the same, but the vertical alignment does not. The top buttons are each moved 1" (2.5 cm) horizontally, in the direction of the armhole.





After the final pressing of the jacket, the buttons are sewn to the jacket using a double strand of waxed, pressed, silk buttonhole twist thread.

Most tailors double their thread by placing two strands through the eye of the needle (as illustrated)—a challenge, indeed. This allows the needle to move to different points along the length of the thread as you sew, thus reducing the probability of the thread being weakened, by being pulled by the needle, over and over again, at the same spot.

The stitches taken on the front of the jacket to attach the button, do not go through all the

layers of the fabric, and therefore, do not show through the facing. The needle is brought through each hole in the button twice, anchoring each side of the button with four strands of thread. A  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) shank is created by holding the button away from the jacket as you stitch.

The stitches completed, the thread is wound around the shank several times. Four knots are then stitched at the base of the shank, catching the thread which comes from each of the four holes in the button. A button secured to the jacket in this way is not likely to be lost without warning.



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# FINAL PRESSING

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Following the pressing techniques outlined on page 8, the jacket is now carefully and completely pressed. The pressing is done before the buttons have been sewn on, to permit the iron greater access. The pressing proceeds step by step, as follows:

1. The underside of one lapel, the underside of the collar, and the underside of the second lapel.



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## On the Inside of the Jacket

2. The facing, from the bottom of the lapel to the hem on one side of the jacket; and the lining below the waist, first on one side of the jacket, and then on the other. Be careful to use a tailor's ham to press shaped areas of the jacket.
3. The lining in the chest area on both sides of the jacket.

4. Across the hem on the lining side, from one side of the jacket to the other.

## On the Outside of the Jacket

5. Each front of the jacket from shoulder to hem, and the side seam.
6. The jacket back from shoulder to hem.

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## Sleeves

7. On the right side of the fabric, the front seam, and the undersleeve.



8. With the sleeve board inside the jacket, the topsleeve, from biceps to hem, creasing the sleeve lightly from elbow to hem.
9. The lining underarm area.



10. Holding a press mitt inside the shoulder of the jacket, press each shoulder and sleeve cap on the right side of the fabric.



11. The right side of each lapel.



12. With the lapel and collar lying flat over the pressing board, press the gorge line, and a light crease at the neck edge of the gorge line.

# 7 The Pants

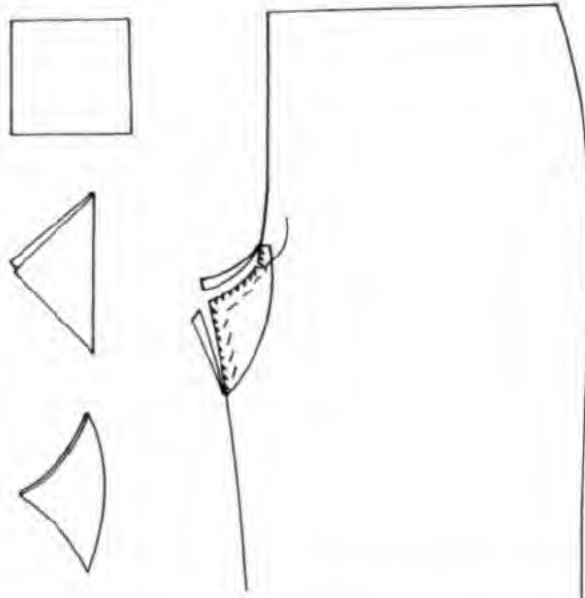
## REINFORCING THE CROTCH

The front of the crotch is reinforced to strengthen the bias against stretching and to protect the fabric from moisture.

The crotch reinforcement is a 7" (17.8 cm) square of pocketing fabric which has been folded on the diagonal and pressed to a curve along the fold.

It is basted at the crotch on the wrong side of both pants fronts. The folded edge of the reinforcement should be in, towards the body of the pants, and the top should extend about 1/2" (1.3 cm) above the fly notch.

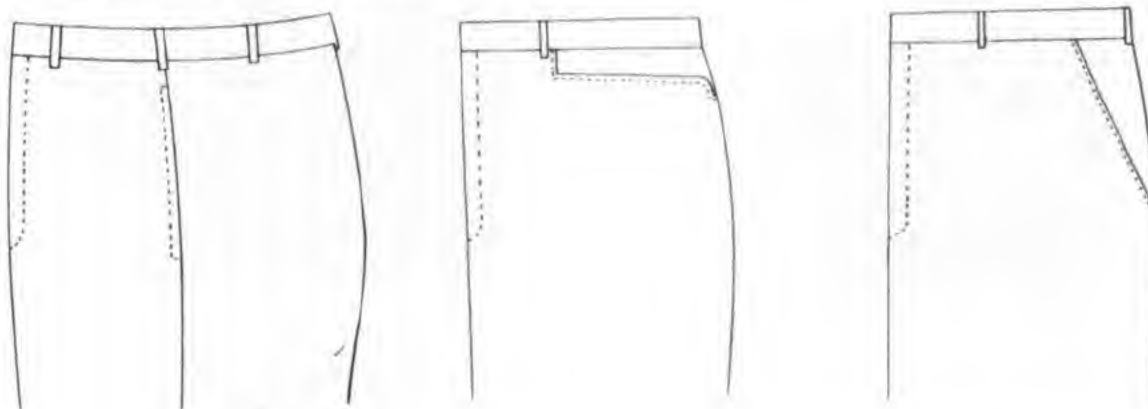
Trim the reinforcement even with the edge of the crotch, and overcast the pants and reinforcement together along the outer edge.



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## THE PANTS POCKETS

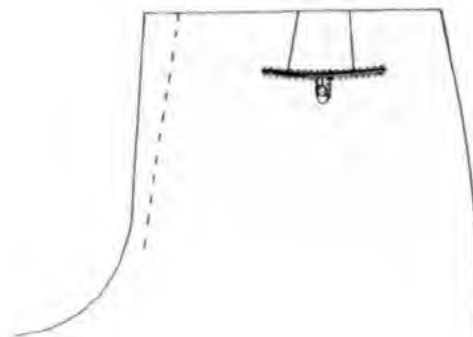
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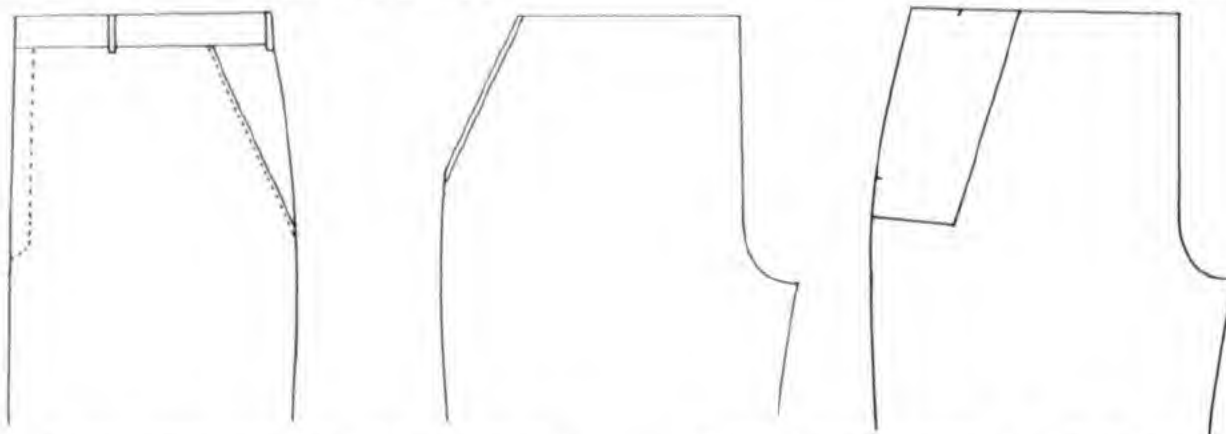
If, as suggested in the Pattern unit (page 9), you have chosen a pants pattern designed for side pockets, you will now be able to create any of the three basic front pockets detailed here—the *slant* pocket, the *Western* pocket or the *side* pocket.

The back pocket, shown here, is a double-piping pocket, with or without a buttonhole tab.

Patterns for all four pockets discussed here are found beginning on page 233.



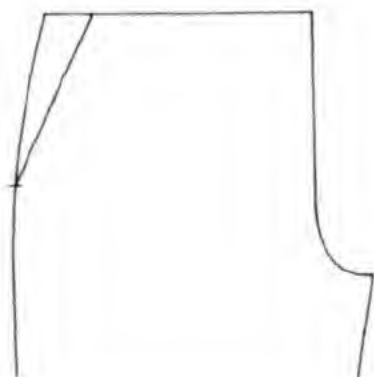
# THE SLANT POCKET



If your pattern is designed for slant pockets, the pants front pattern has probably been cut on the diagonal at the top of the side seam.

If you would like to put slant pockets in trousers which have been designed for side pockets, you can adjust your pattern by using the SLANT YOKE pattern on page 237.

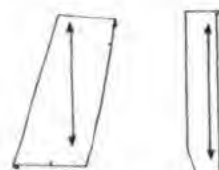
Place the *slant yoke* on the pants front fabric, at the top of the side seam. Chalkmark the notches at the waist and side seam, and remove the pattern. The pattern assumes a pants side seam allowance of  $\frac{5}{16}$ " (1.9 cm).



Chalkmark a line from notch to notch, and then add a second line,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) above the first as seam allowance. Trim away the fabric above the seam allowance.

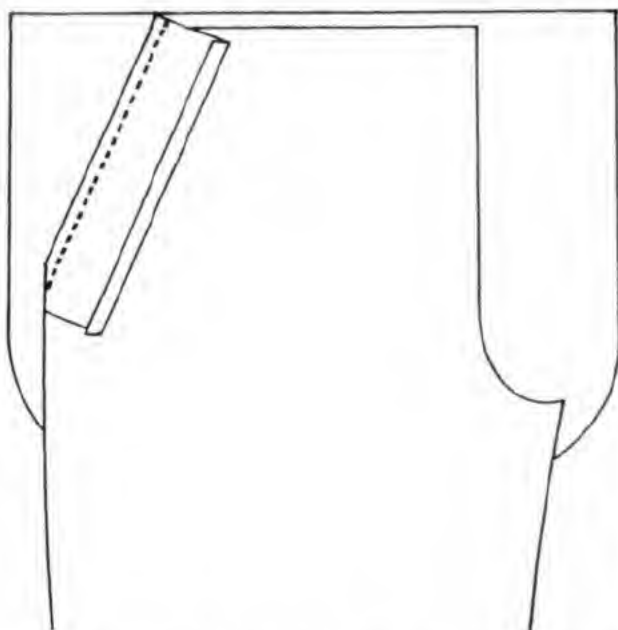


Cut one piece of pocketing for each pocket, 16" (40.6 cm) wide and 12" (30.5 cm) long, on straight grain. Fold the pocketing in half and trim the bottom outer corners to a curve.

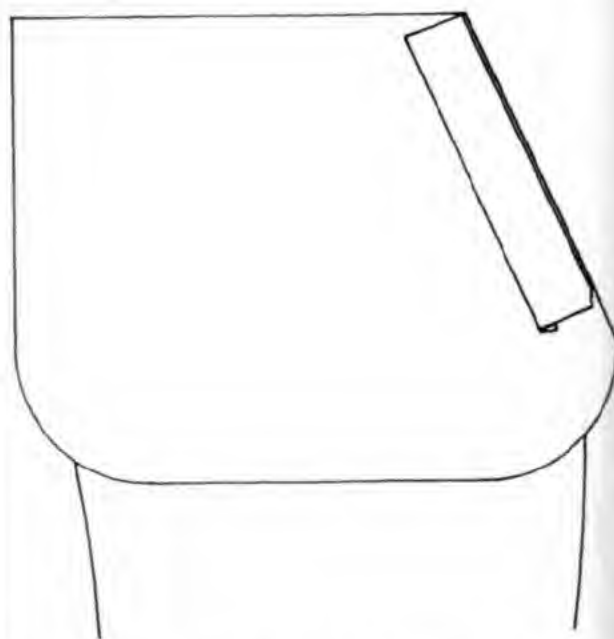


Using the *slant yoke pattern* once more, cut from garment fabric, on straight grain, nap down, one yoke for each pocket. Press to the wrong side of the fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) hems at the bottom of the yoke and at the unnotched side.

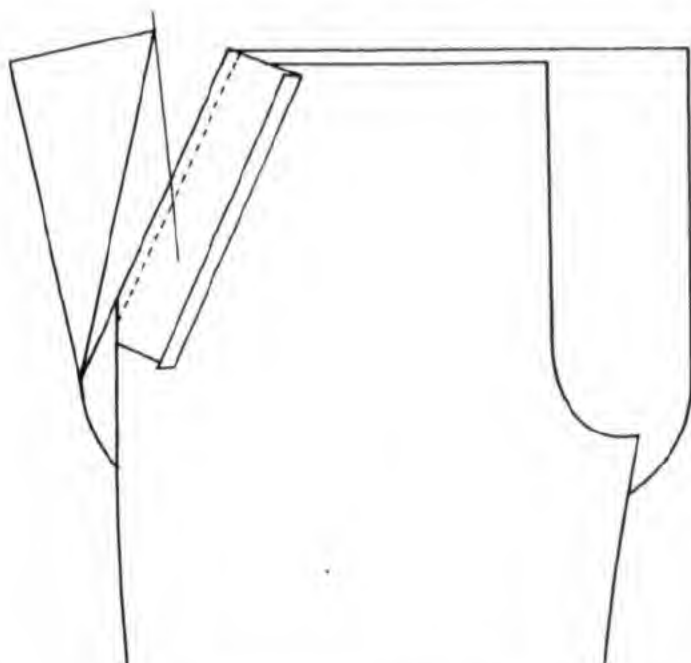
Using the pattern labelled *SIDE AND SLANT FACING* on page 239, cut from garment fabric, on straight grain, two pieces of facing for each side pocket. On the longest edge of each piece, press a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) hem to the wrong side.



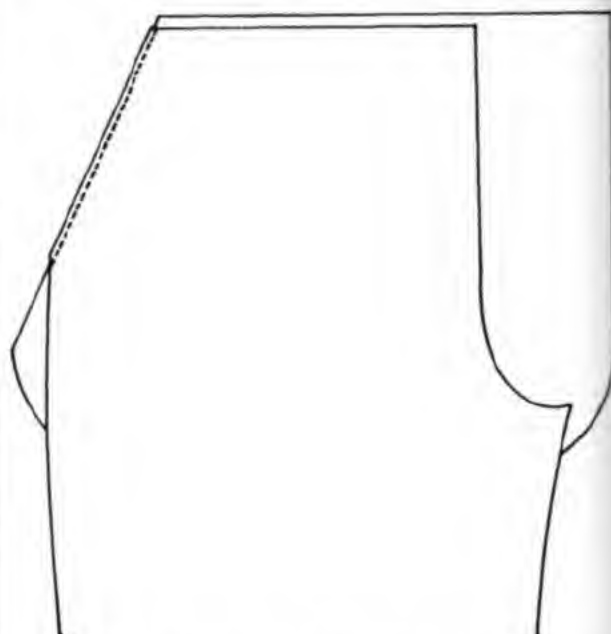
Place one piece of pocketing on the wrong side of the pants front, extending  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) above the top of the pants, and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) out at the side seam. Place the facing right side down on the pants front, the unfolded edge of the facing flush with the diagonal cut at the top of the pants. Machine-stitch the facing, pants, and pocketing together, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam along the diagonal edge.



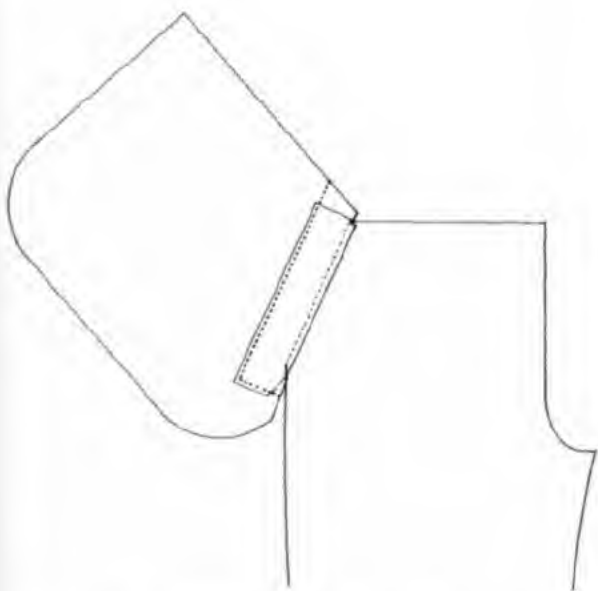
Bring the facing and the facing seam to the wrong side of the pants, and press in place.



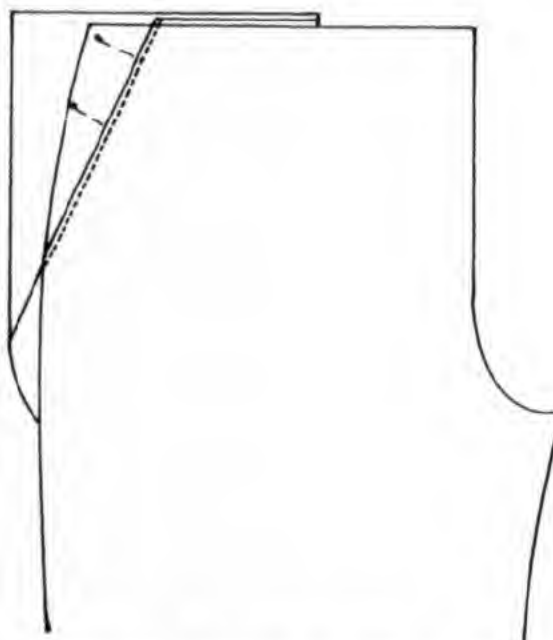
Trim away the pocketing above the facing.



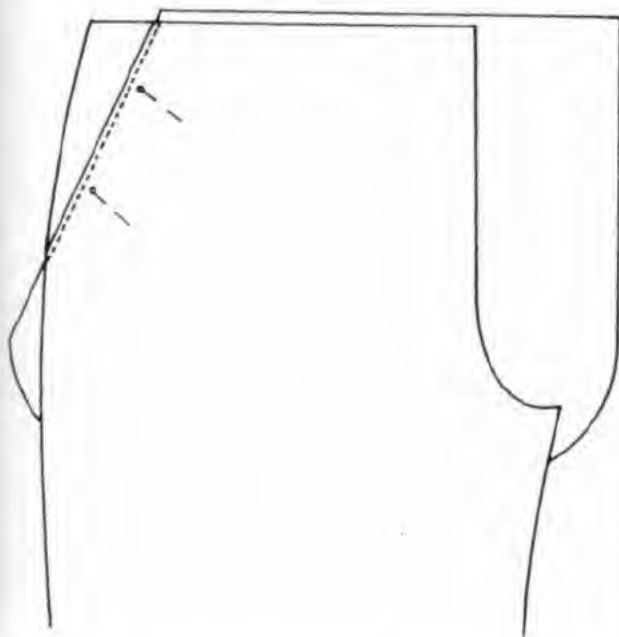
On the right side, topstitch along the diagonal edge about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the fold.



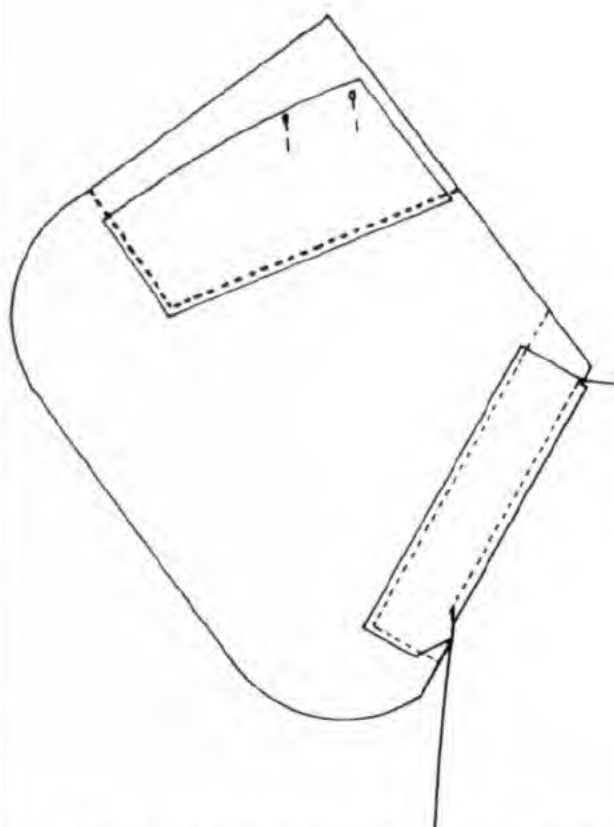
On the wrong side, topstitch along the folded edge of the facing, attaching the facing to the pocketing only. These stitches do not go through to the front of the pants.



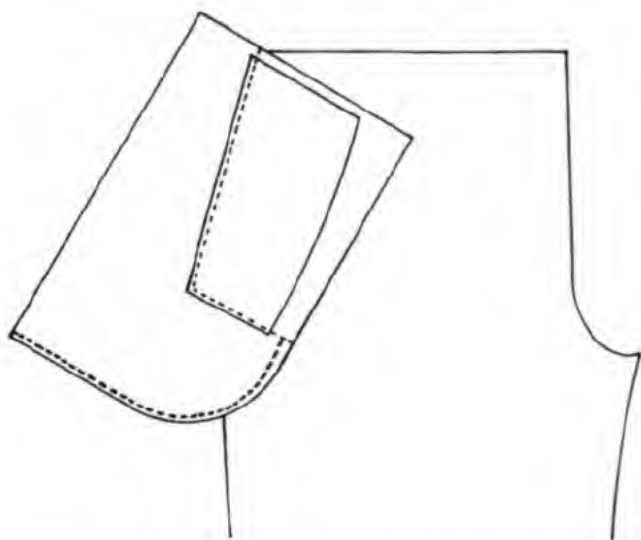
Fold the pocketing in half, matching the curved edges. Pin the yoke to the pocketing.



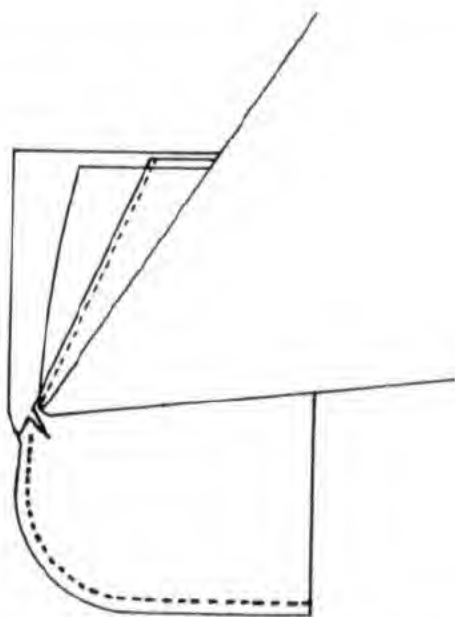
Place the yoke, notch to notch, at the top of the pants side seam, and pin it in place.



Open out the pocketing and topstitch the yoke to the pocketing.

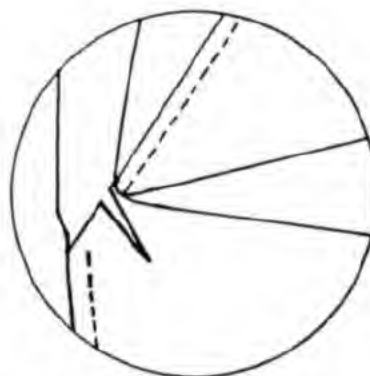


Fold the pocketing once more, inside out this time, in order to begin a French seam. Begin  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the side notch using a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam, and taper the seam to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) at the curve and across the bottom of the jacket.



Turn the pocket right side out and press. Topstitch around the pocketing seam  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the edge.

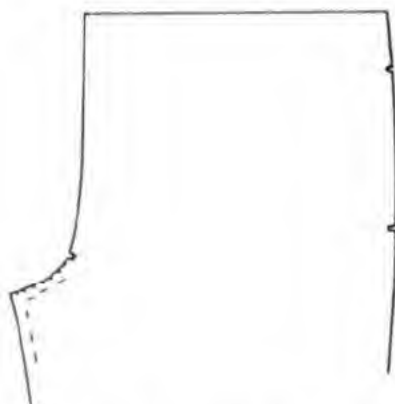
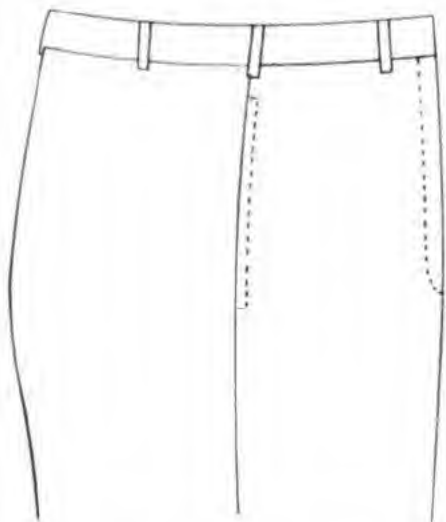
Just below the pocket opening, on the side of the pocketing closest to the garment fabric, slash about 1" (2.5 cm) into the pocketing and



facing. This slash will eventually enable you to hold the pocket aside while the side seams are being sewn. The side seams will be sewn only after all pockets and the fly have been constructed.



# THE SIDE POCKET

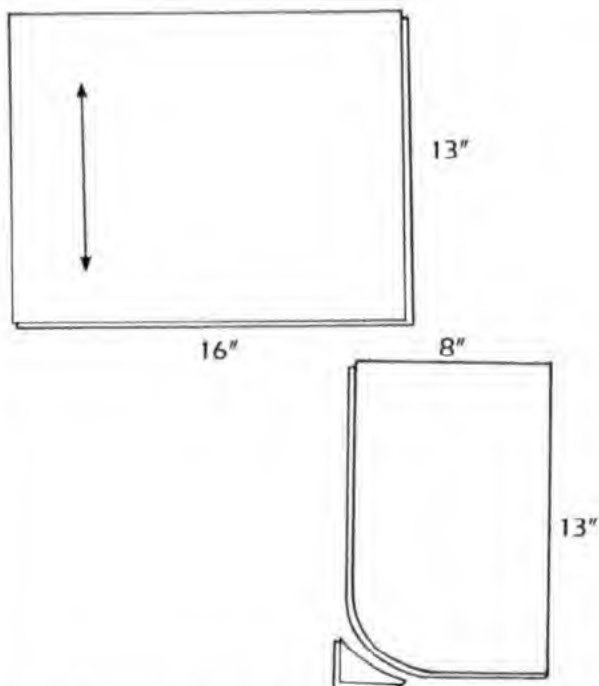


The side pocket is placed in the side seam on the front of the pants. The pocket opening is between 6" (15.2 cm) and 6 1/2" (16.5 cm) long, and begins 2" (5 cm) down from the top edge.

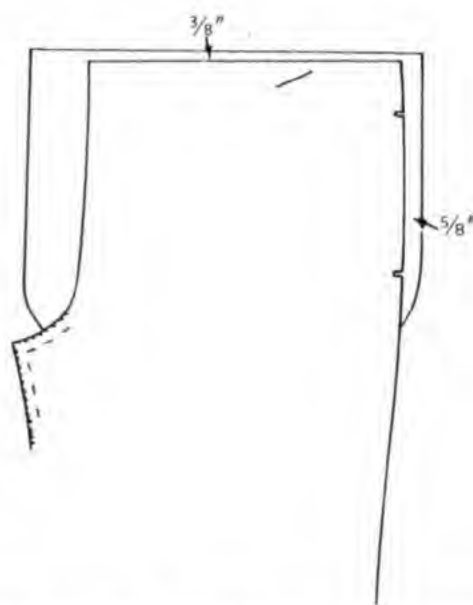
Notch the top and bottom of the pocket opening. The notches should be no deeper than 1/8" (3 mm).



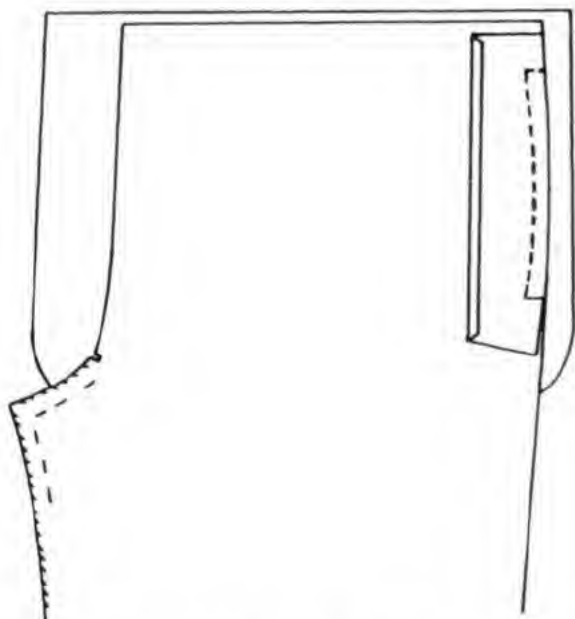
Using the pattern labelled SIDE AND SLANT FACING on page 239, cut from garment fabric, on straight grain, one piece of facing for each pocket. On the longest straight edge of the facing, press a 1/4" (6 mm) hem towards the wrong side.



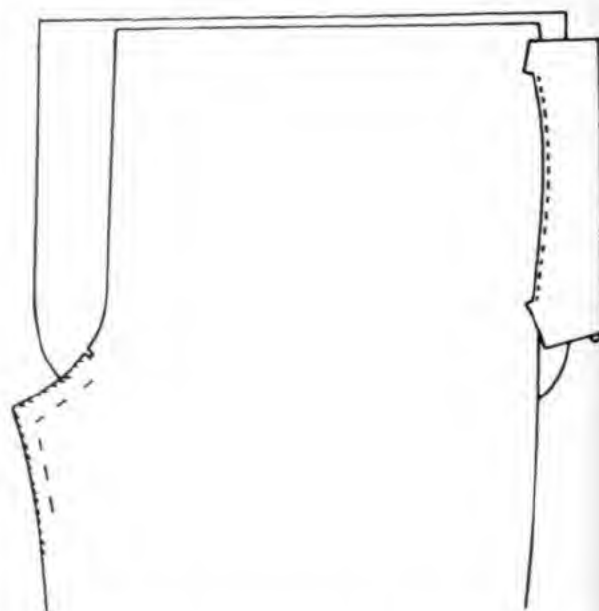
Cut one piece of pocketing for each pocket, on straight grain, 13" (33 cm) long and 16" (40.6 cm) wide. Fold the pocketing in half on the width, and trim the outside bottom edges into a curve (as illustrated).



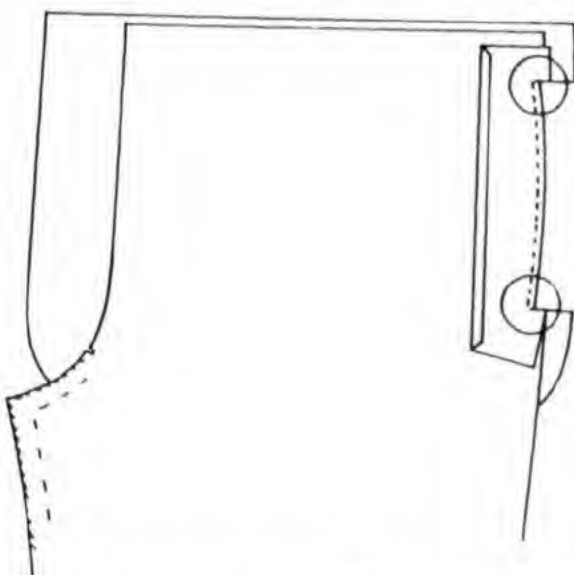
Place one piece of pocketing on the wrong side of the trouser front, allowing 5/8" (1.6 cm) pocketing to extend beyond the lower notch, and 3/8" (1 cm) at the center of the waistline.



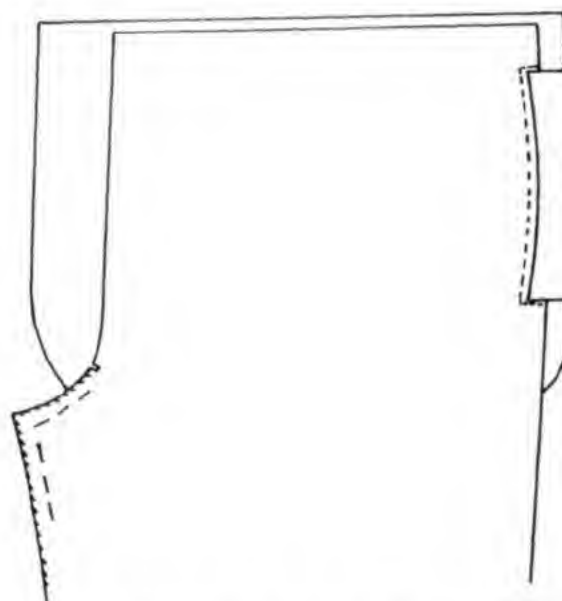
Place one facing piece face down on top of the side seam,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the top. Chalkmark the notches on the facing. Machine-stitch from notch to notch, using a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) seam allowance at the top and bottom of the pocket opening, tapering to a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam allowance at the center. Tack well at the top and bottom of the stitchline.



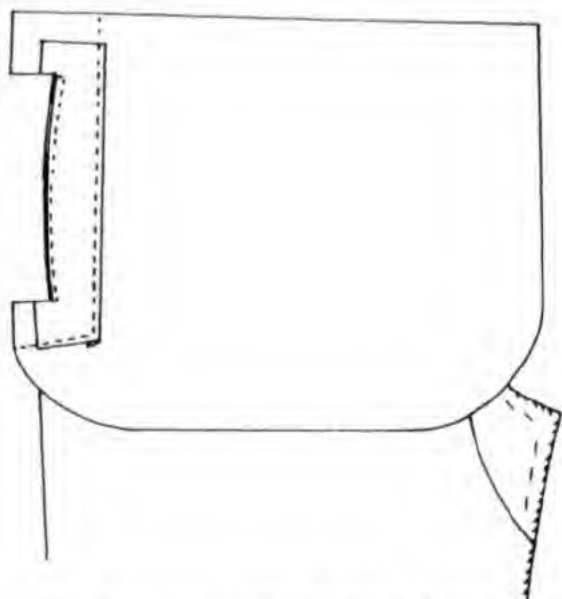
Bring the facing out to the side of the trousers, and topstitch the facing to the seam allowance, *very close to the seam*.



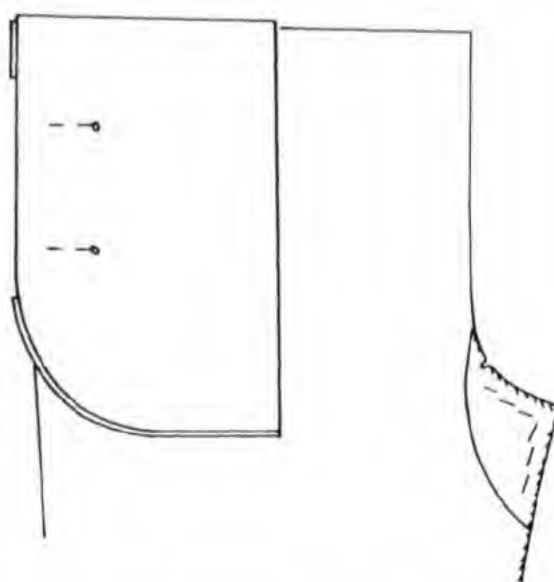
The pocketing and garment fabric is now slashed right to the stitchline at each notch. The excess fabric is trimmed away, leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam allowance along the stitchline.



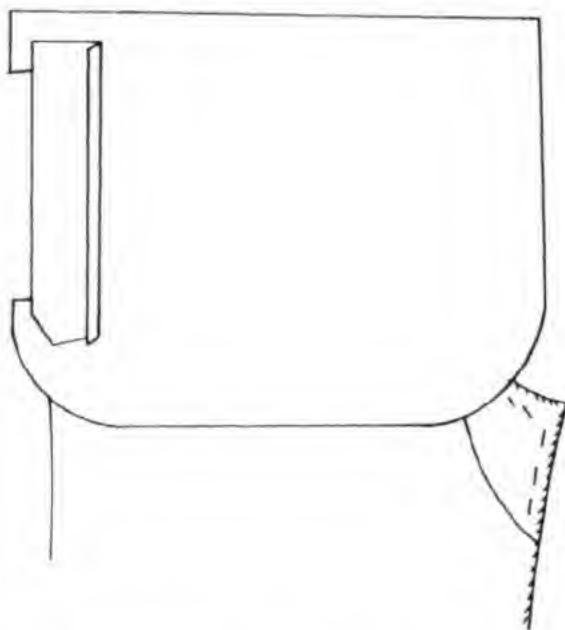
Bring the facing to the wrong side of the pants front. The facing seam should also be drawn to the edge of the wrong side, so that it is not visible from the front. On the right side, topstitch along the pocket opening,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the edge. Tack well at the top and bottom.



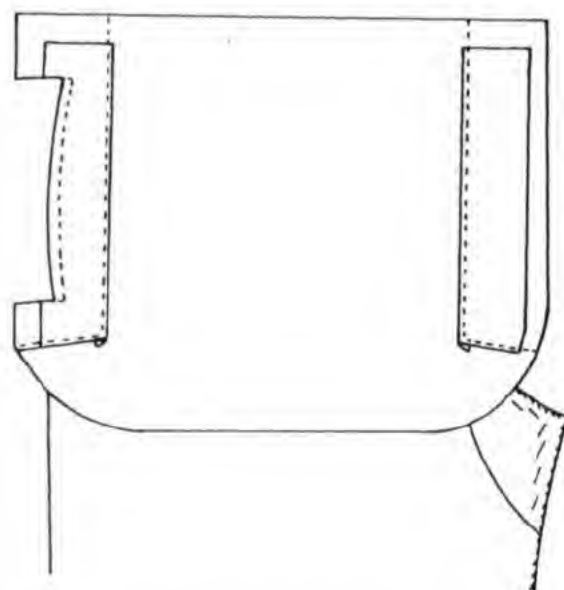
On the wrong side, the folded edge of the facing is topstitched to the pocketing. Catch the pocketing and facing only. These stitches *do not* go through to the right side of the pants.



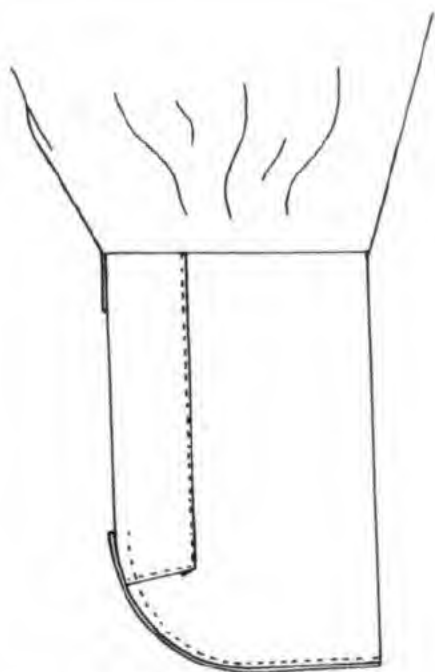
The pocketing is now folded over, on top of the facing. Make sure that the curved edges of the pocketing are even. Pin through the pocketing and catch the facing underneath.



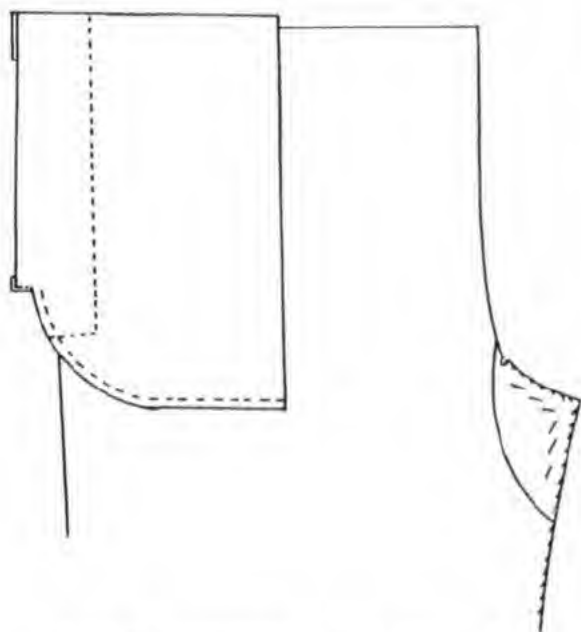
Place the second facing piece, face down on top of the first, matching edges at the top and bottom. The folded edge should be facing up.



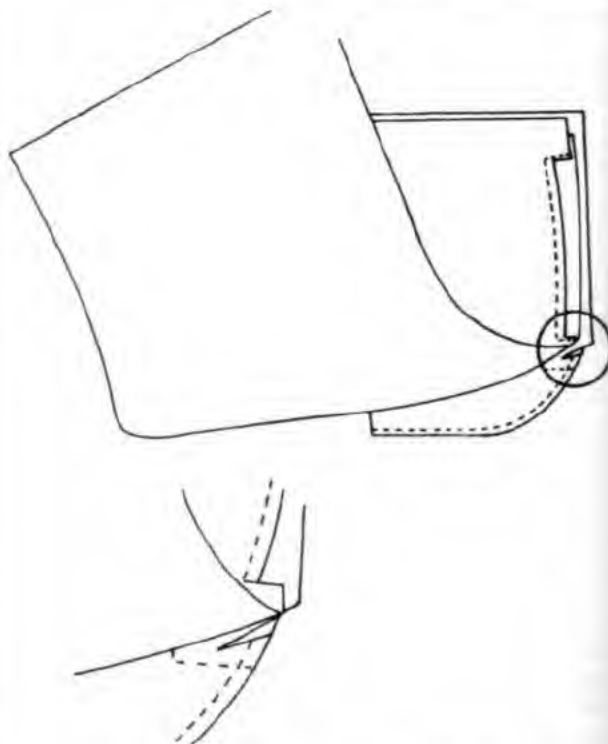
With the pocketing opened out, topstitch the second facing piece to the pocketing.



The pocketing is again folded, this time inside out, in order to begin a French seam. Pull the trouser leg up and out of your way. Begin with a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam at the bottom of the pocket opening, and taper to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) as you stitch around the curve and across the bottom of the pocketing.



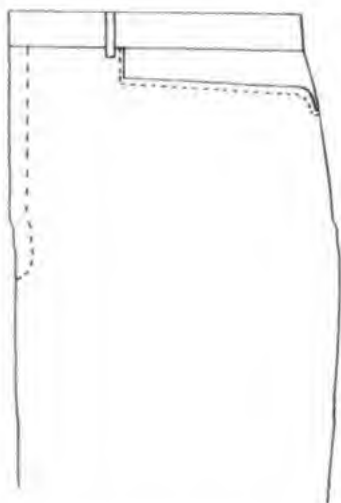
Turn the pocketing and press. Topstitch around the bottom of the pocketing again,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the edge to complete the French seam.



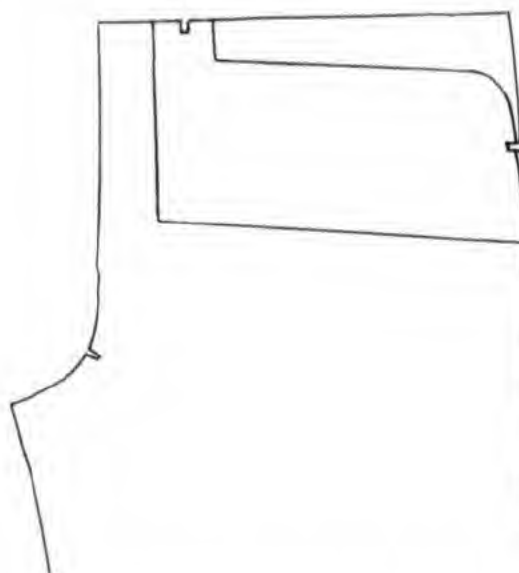
Just below the pocket opening, on the side of the pocketing closest to the garment fabric, slash about 1" (2.5 cm) into the pocketing and the facing. This slash will eventually enable you to hold the pocket aside as the side seam is being sewn. The pocketing is *not* to be caught in the side seam.

The side seam will be sewn only after all the pockets and the fly have been constructed.

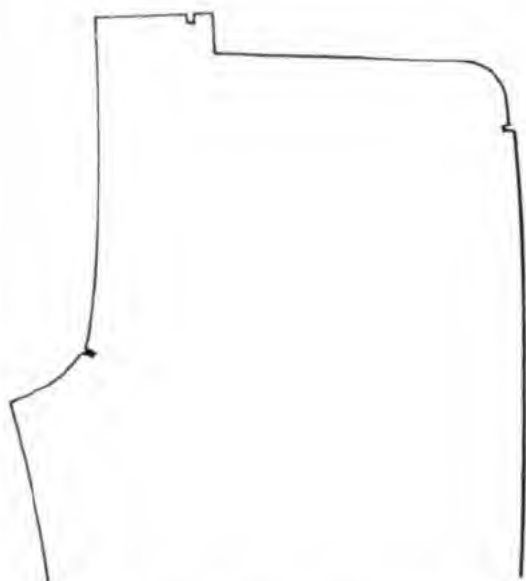
## THE WESTERN POCKET



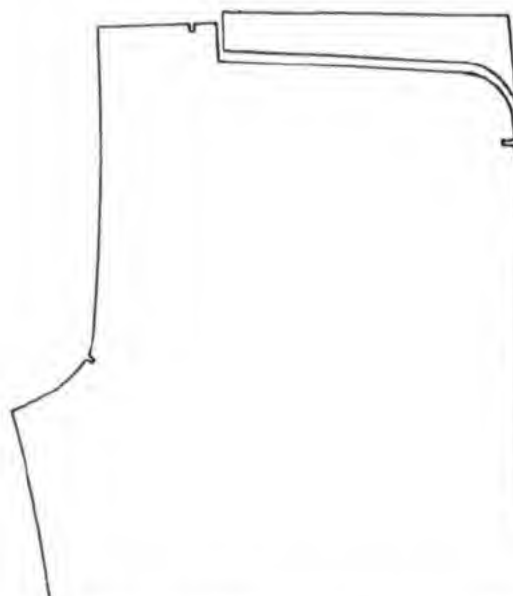
The western pants pocket opens at the top of the trousers, just below the waistband.



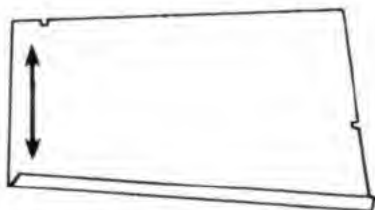
If, however, you would like to put a western pocket on a pair of pants which was designed for a side pocket, use the pattern marked WESTERN SHAPER on page 235. Place the pattern on the front of the trousers, and chalkmark the notches at the waistline and side cutting edges. Chalkmark, also, along top edge of the pattern.



If your pants pattern was designed for a western pocket, the top edge of the trousers will most likely have been cut away (as illustrated).



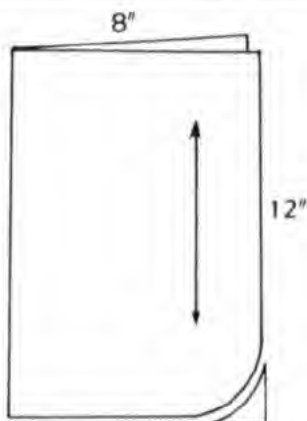
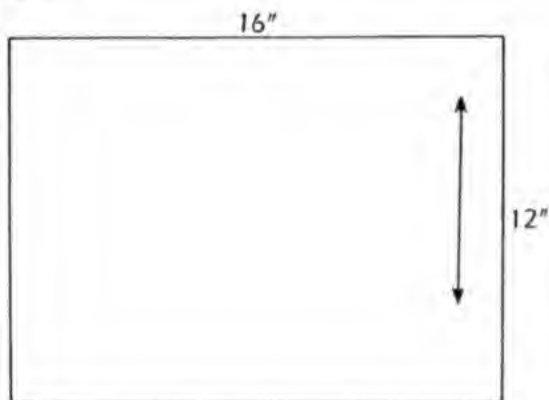
Remove the pattern and trim away the top of the pants, cutting along the chalk guideline.



Use the pattern labelled WESTERN YOKE ON page 233, and cut from garment fabric, on the straight grain, one yoke for each pocket. Chalkmark the notches at the top and side edges; and at bottom edge, press a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) hem to the wrong side.

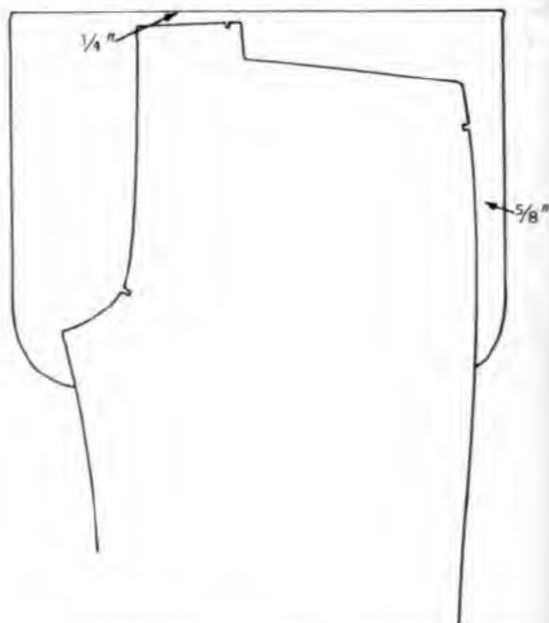


Using the pattern labelled WESTERN FACING ON page 235, cut from garment fabric, on cross-grain, one piece of facing for each pocket. At the longest edge, press a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) hem to the wrong side.

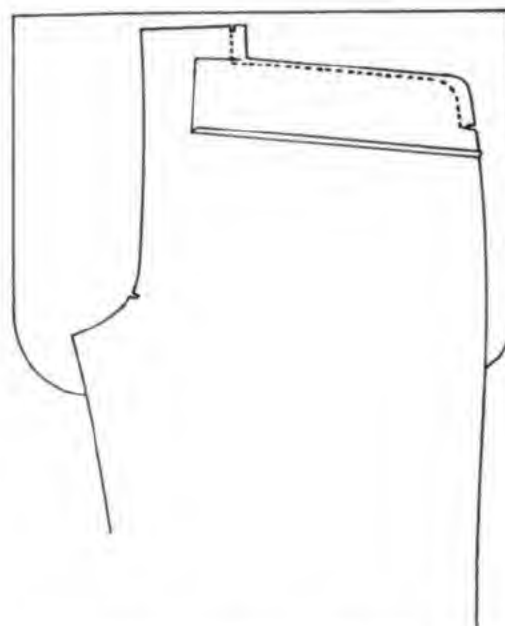


From pocketing material, 12" (30.5 cm) by 16" (40.6 cm), on the straight grain, cut one piece for each pocket.

Fold the pocketing on the width and trim the outer bottom edges into a curve.

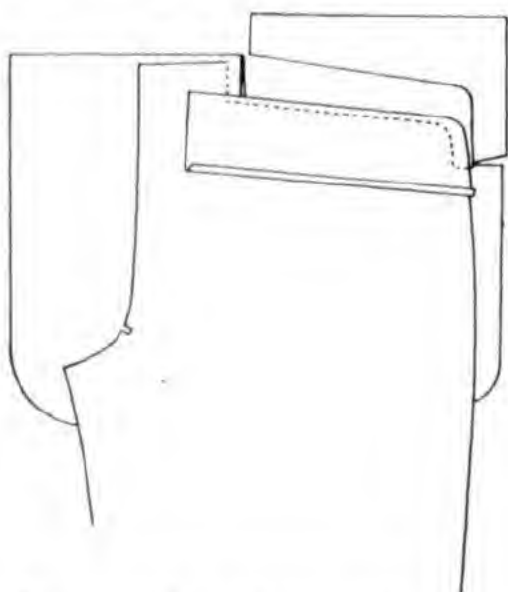


Place one piece of pocketing on the wrong side of the trouser front, allowing  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) to extend above the waistline, and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) out at the side notch.

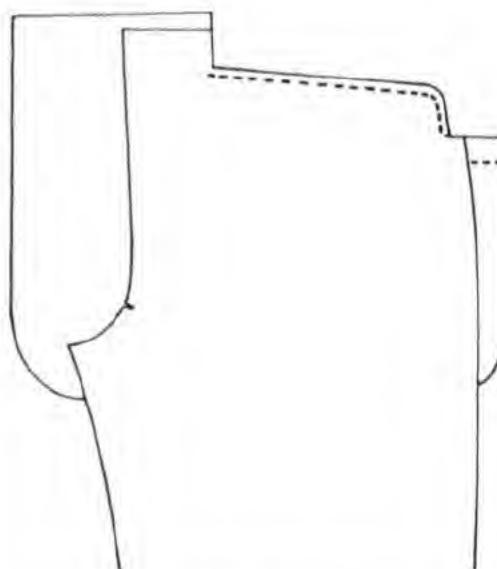


Place the facing, right sides together, on top of the pants front, top edges even, and notch the side of the facing. Machine-stitch down from the waistline notch, and then across the top of the facing, very close to the edge. As you curve to the side notch, increase your seam allowance to  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) the amount of the side seam allowance on the pants. Stitch across, just below the notch at the side seam.

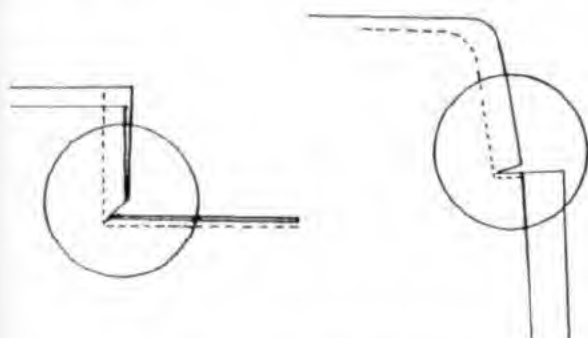




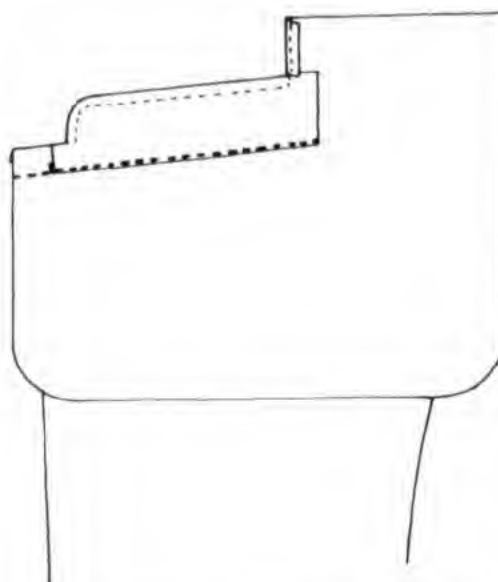
Trim away the pocketing at the top of the trousers.



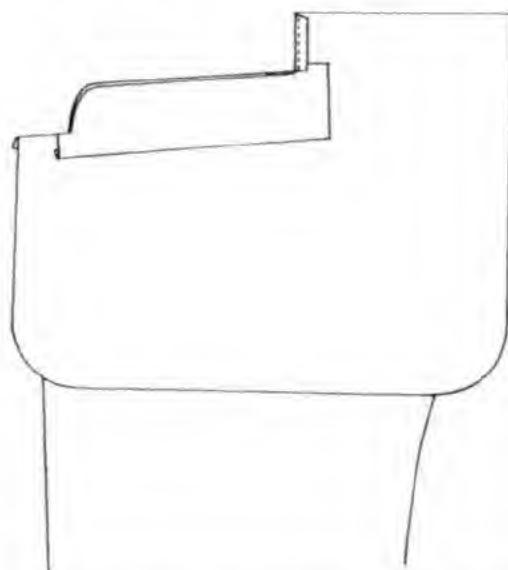
Topstitch a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam across the top of the pocket, around and out at the notch.



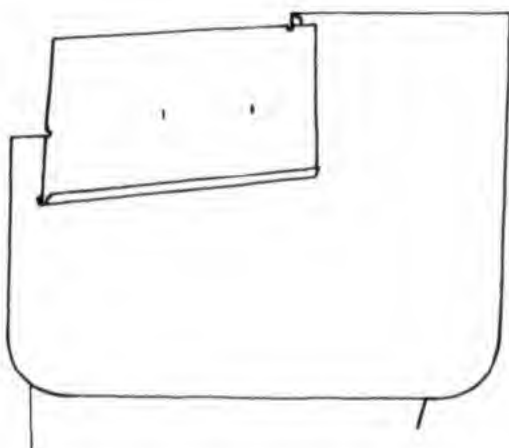
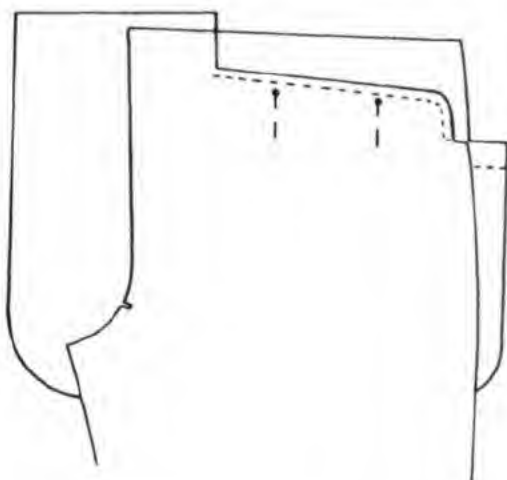
At the top of the facing, and at the side notch, slash to the stitchline.



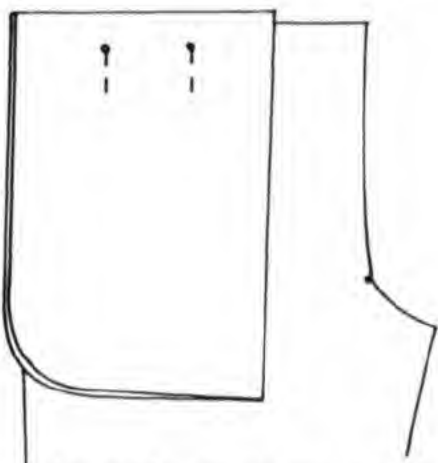
On the wrong side, stitch the folded edge of the facing to the pocketing. Catch only the facing and pocketing, and *not* the front of the trousers.



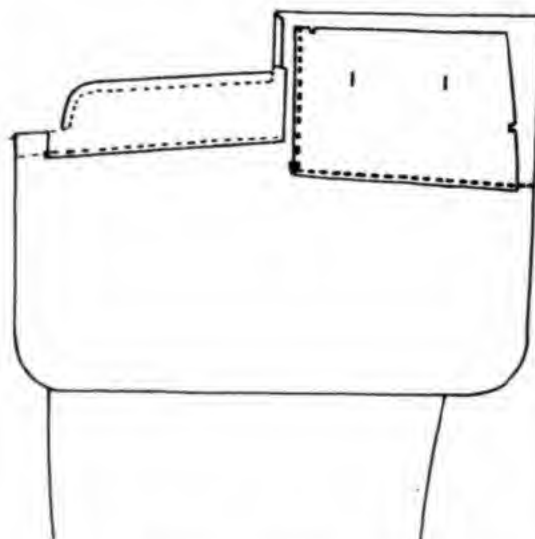
Turn the facing to the wrong side and press in place, so that the facing seamline is not visible from the right side of the fabric.



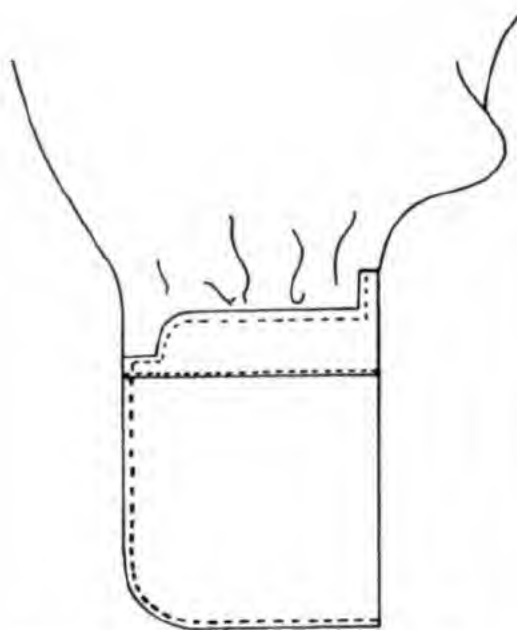
Place the right side of the yoke to the wrong side of the pants front, notch to notch, and pin the yoke in place. The folded hem at the bottom of the yoke should be visible from the wrong side.



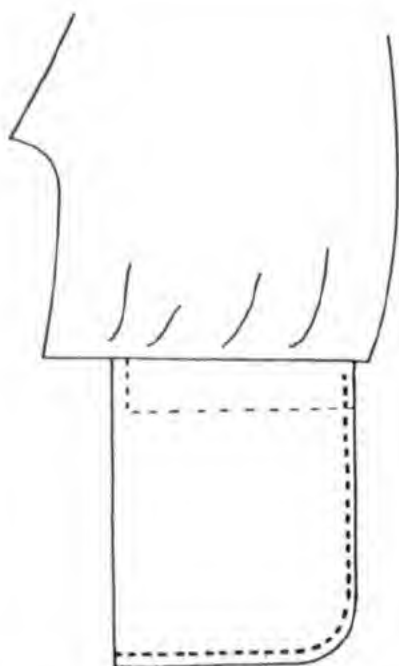
Fold the pocketing on top of the yoke, matching the curves at the bottom edges of the pocketing. Pin through the top layer of pocketing to catch the yoke underneath.



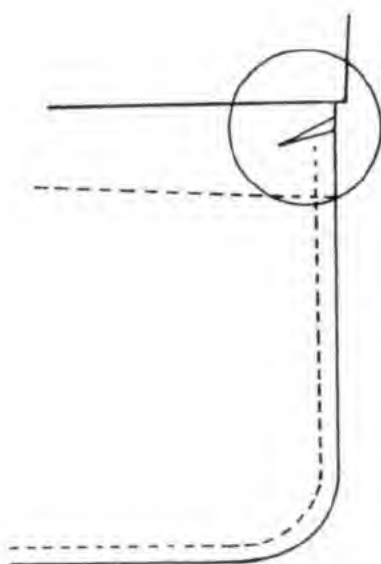
With the yoke secured in place, open out the pocketing, and topstitch the yoke to the pocketing.



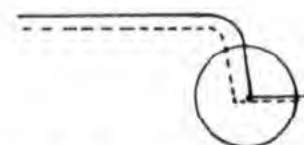
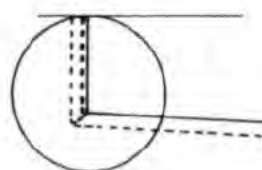
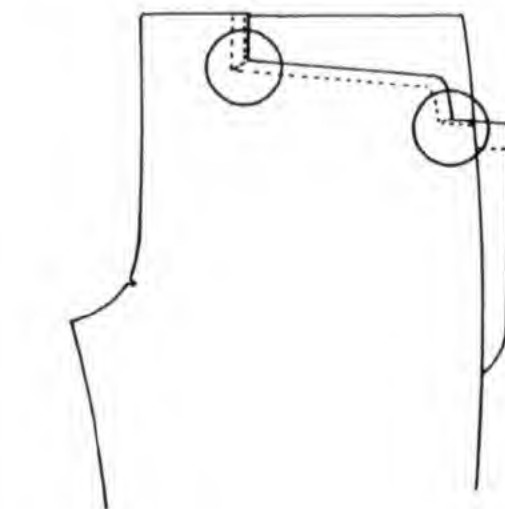
Fold the pocketing once more, this time, inside out, in order to begin a French seam. Begin a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam at the side of the pocket, and taper to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) at the curve and across the bottom.



Turn the pocket and press. Topstitch once more around the pocketing,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the edge, completing the French seam.



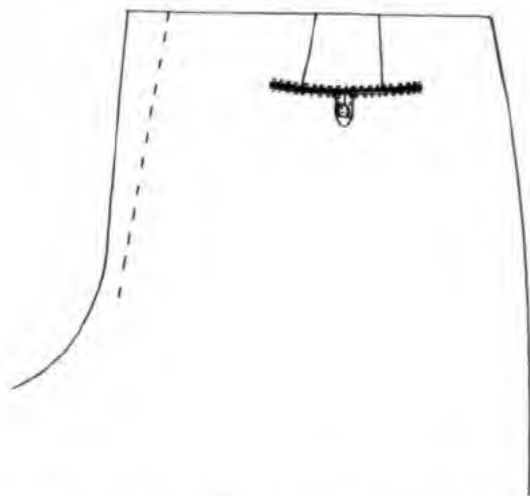
Just below the pocket opening, on the side of the pocketing closest to the garment fabric, slash about 1" (2.5 cm) into the pocketing and facing. This slash will eventually enable you to hold the pocket aside as the side seam is being sewn. The pocketing is not to be caught in the side seam. The side seams will be sewn only after all pockets and the fly have been constructed.



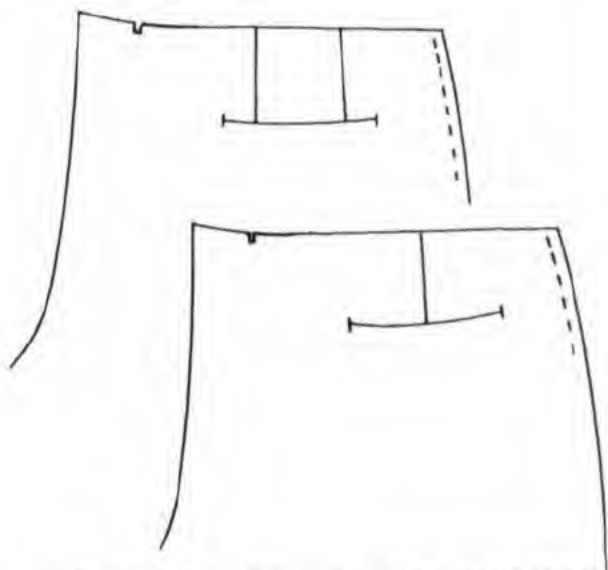
On the right side of the pocket, topstitch two vertical rows of stitching attaching the yoke to the pants front. Tack one diagonal row of stitching at the bottom of these stitchlines.

At the side notch, topstitch the pants front into the pocketing, using one diagonal row of stitching. The western pocket is complete.

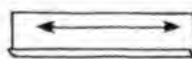
# THE BACK POCKET



The back pants pocket is a double-piping pocket, with or without buttonhole tab, constructed somewhat differently from the double-piping pocket for jackets.

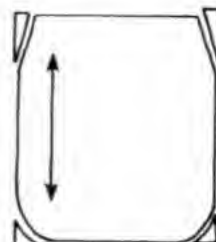
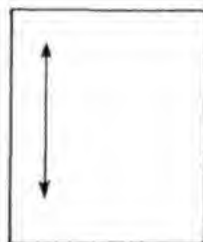


The pocket placement line, 5"–5½" (12.7–14 cm) long, is drawn on a slight curve, the center of the line being about ⅛" (3 mm) lower than the sides. This curve will help prevent the pocket from gaping open when not in use. The pocket placement line is drawn at the bottom of the dart, or darts, and 2" (5 cm) from the side stitchline. Check the length of the darts. If they are longer than 3½" (8.9 cm), the pocket will be too low, and you will end up sitting on your wallet, or whatever you keep in the back pocket. Simply shorten the darts to 3½" (8.9 cm) to avoid the possibility of this discomfort.

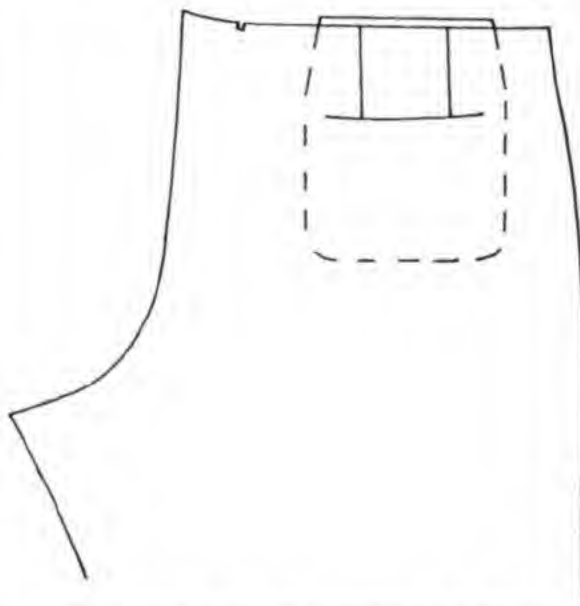


Use the patterns labelled BACK PIPING (page 237) and BACK FACING (page 239), and cut from garment fabric, crossgrain, one piping and one facing piece for each pocket.

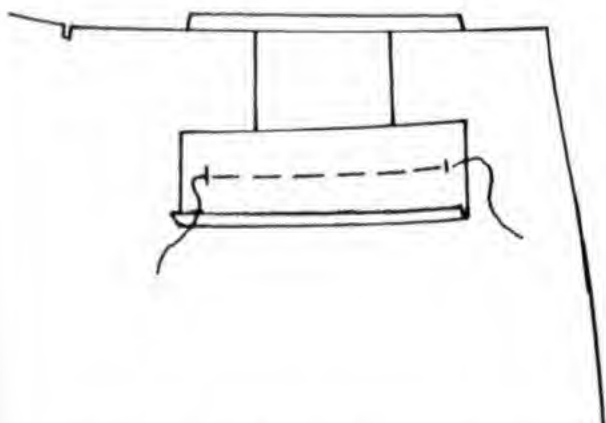
Press one ¼" (6 mm) lengthwise hem to the wrong side of each piece.



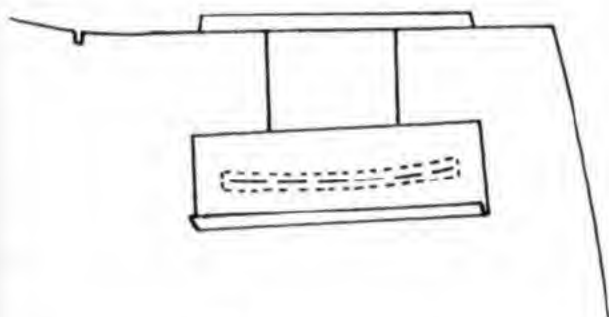
From pocketing material, cut two pieces, 10" (25.4 cm) by 7" (17.8 cm), straight grain. With the pocketing pieces together, trim top and bottom (as illustrated).



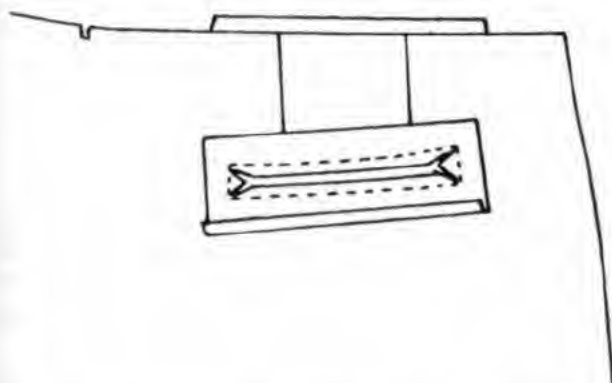
Place one piece of pocketing on the wrong side of the pants back, allowing ¼" (6 mm) of pocketing to show above the pants at the center of the pocket.



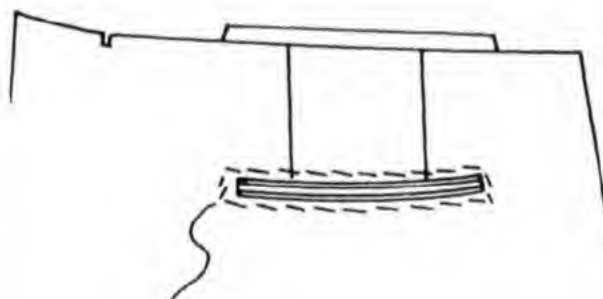
Draw the pocket placement line on the wrong side of the piping and baste the piping to the pants along this line, catching the pocketing underneath as you baste.



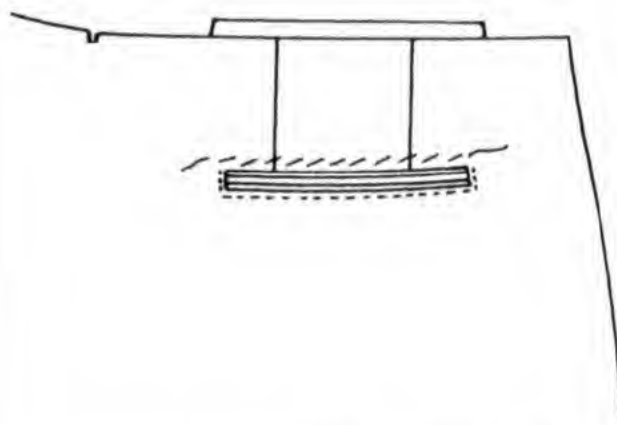
Using a small machine-stitch (about sixteen stitches per inch), sew completely around the pocket placement line. Stitch  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) above and below the line, and exactly at the beginning and end of the line at either side.



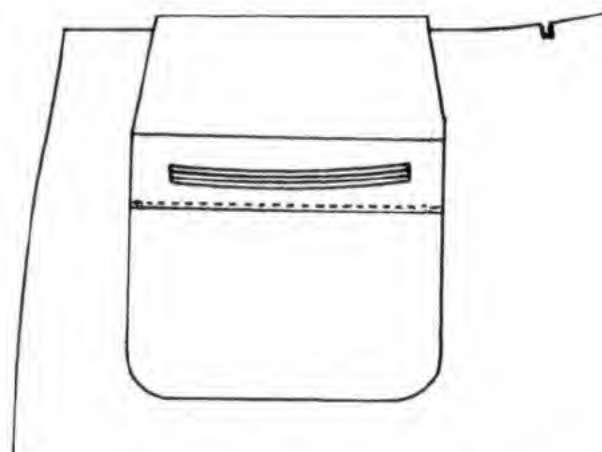
Slash through the center of the stitchlines, and cut  $\frac{3}{16}$ " (1 cm) prongs at either end.



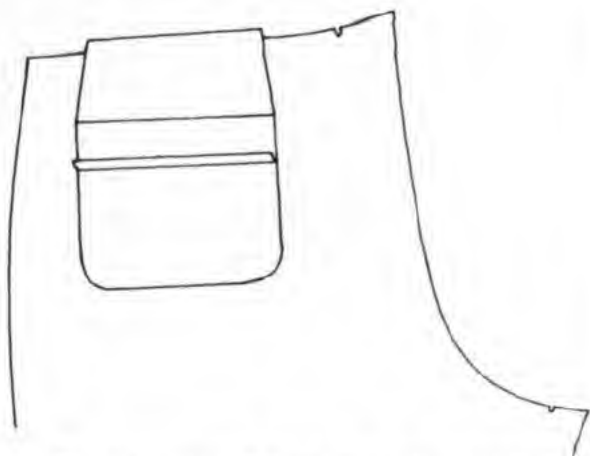
Draw the piping to the wrong side, and baste around the pocket opening, leaving a thin edge of piping visible above and below. Steam press the pocket from the right side.



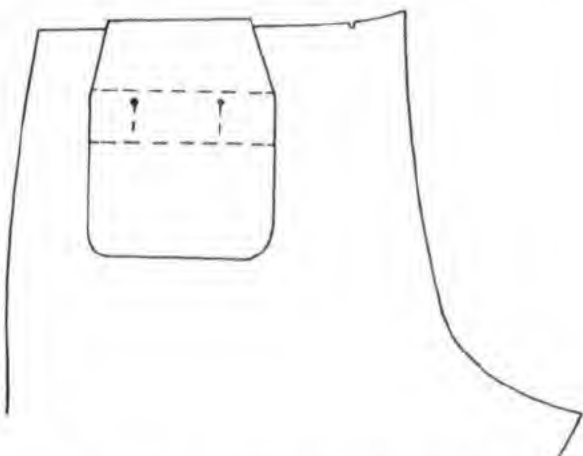
Machine-stitch on the right side of the trousers, very close to the sides and bottom edge of the piping.



On the wrong side, machine topstitch the folded edge of the piping to the pocketing.



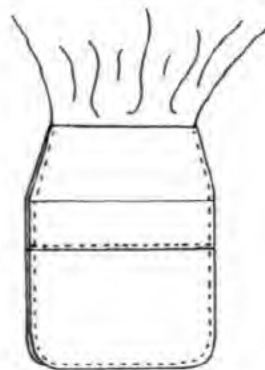
On the inside of the pants, place the facing right side down, and center it on top of the pocket opening. The folded edge on the facing should be visible.



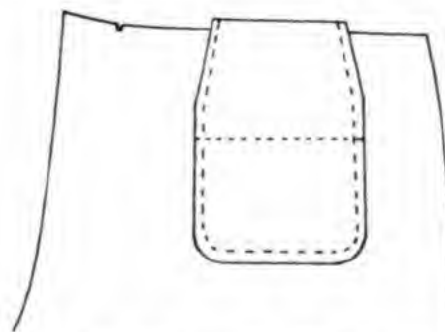
Place the second piece of pocketing on top of the first, matching the edges. Pin through the second piece of pocketing and catch the facing. The broken line in this illustration indicates the position of the facing under the pocketing.



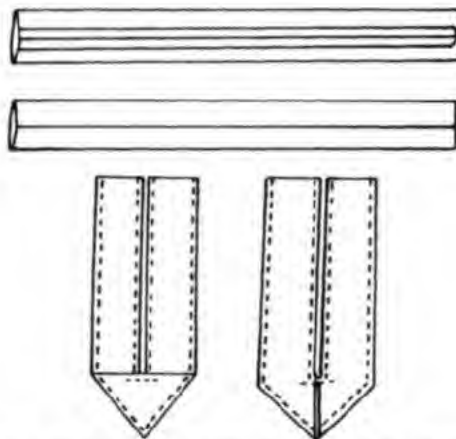
Now that the exact placement of the facing has been determined, the second piece of pocketing is removed, so that the facing can be machine-stitched to it. Topstitch across the bottom edge of the facing, along the folded edge.



The two pocketing pieces are again placed together, this time, inside out, in order to begin a French seam. The trouser leg will have to be pulled up and out of your way. Stitch around the pocket using a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) seam.



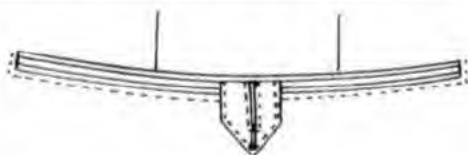
Turn the pocketing, and press. Stitch around the pocketing once more, this time  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the edge, to complete the French seam.



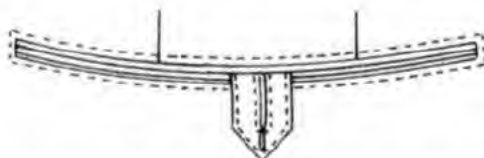
The buttonhole tab is constructed from a strip of garment fabric, straight grain,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm). Stitch the strip lengthwise, using a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) seam, and press the seam open.

Turn the strip to the right side, and press the seam to the center. The strip is now folded into an arrow shape and topstitched (as illustrated).

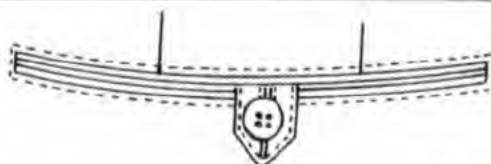




Insert the tab into the pocket opening, leaving a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) slit in the tab below the top piping.

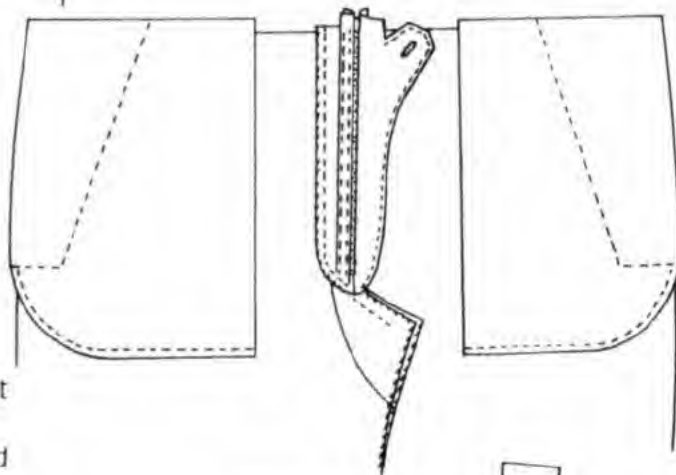
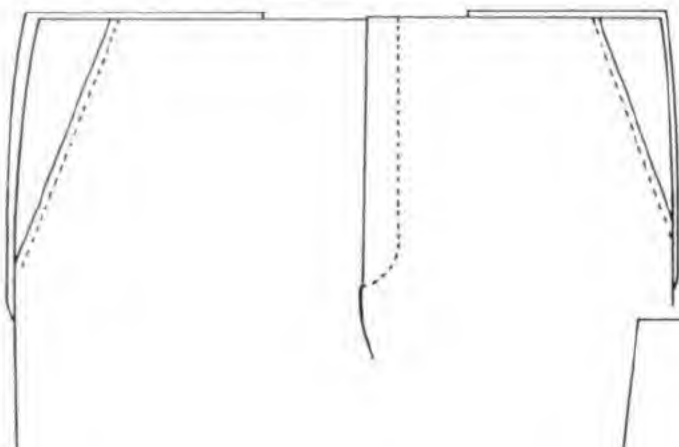


Topstitch at the sides and across the top of the pocket, very close to the piping.



To complete the back trouser pocket, sew a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) button just below the bottom piping.

## THE PANTS FLY

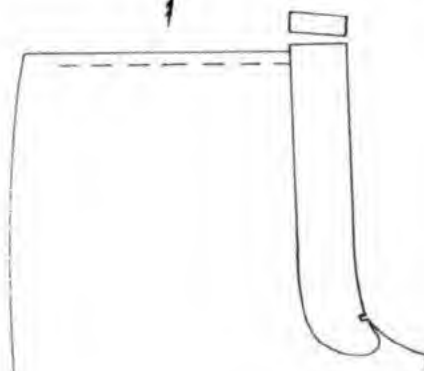


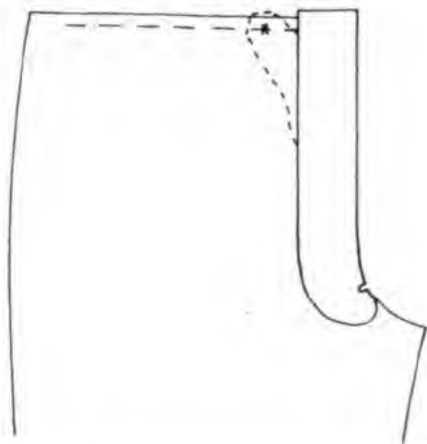
The pants fly is constructed after the front pockets have been completed.

The fly-front closing illustrated here is called a *French fly*. The back of the fly is extended to form a buttonhole tab.

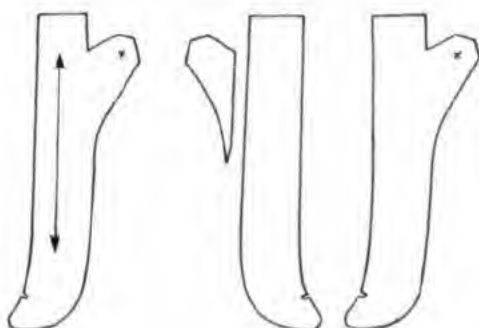
You will need the patterns labelled FRENCH TAB and FRENCH FLY on page 241. Trace these patterns and cut them out.

Place the fly pattern, notch to notch, on the front of the pants to determine the length of the fly. Leave about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) of the pattern above the top of the pants front, and trim away the rest.

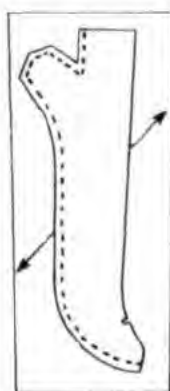




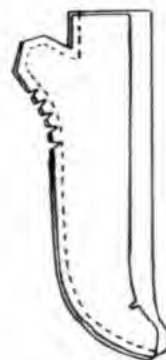
Place the French tab at the side of the fly, so that the top of the buttonhole on the tab is aligned with the waist stitchline. The button will eventually be placed at the waist stitchline.



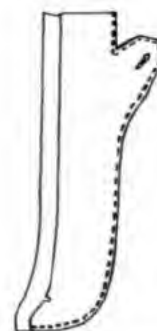
With the French tab in place on the pattern, cut two French fly pieces from garment fabric, on the straight grain, and mark the top of the buttonhole. Right sides of the fabric facing up, trim the French tab from the fly on the left.



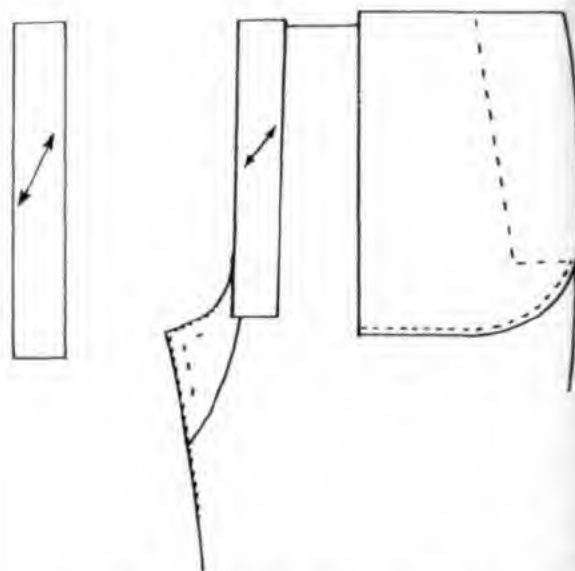
Place the French fly right side down on a bias strip of pocketing and machine-stitch along the outer edge of the fly.



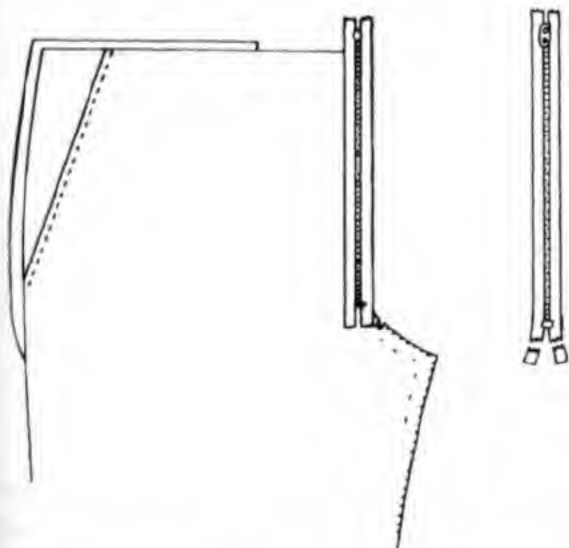
Trim the pocketing to a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam, and leave  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) pocketing at the unstitched edge.



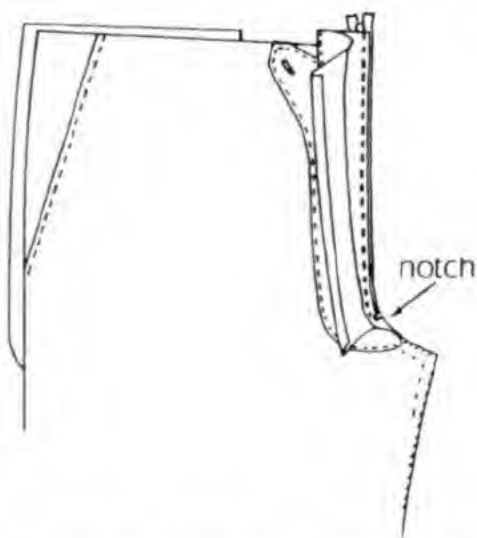
Turn the fly to the right side and topstitch close to the outer edge. Machine-stitch a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.6 cm) buttonhole on the tab.



Cut a bias piece of pocketing,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) wide and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) longer than the fly, and place it on the wrong side of the pants, at the center front. The bottom of the reinforcement should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the pants notch.



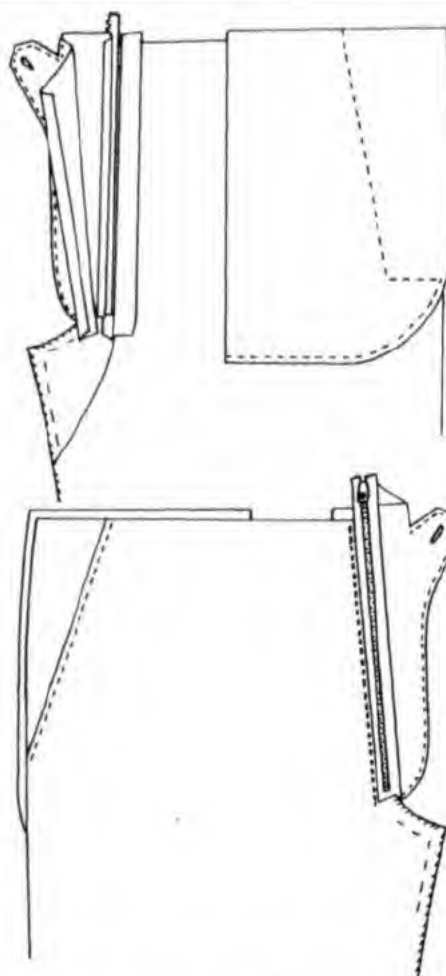
Trim the zipper tape  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) past the metal zipper stop, and place it face down, on the right side of the pants at the center front; the metal zipper stop should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) above the notch.



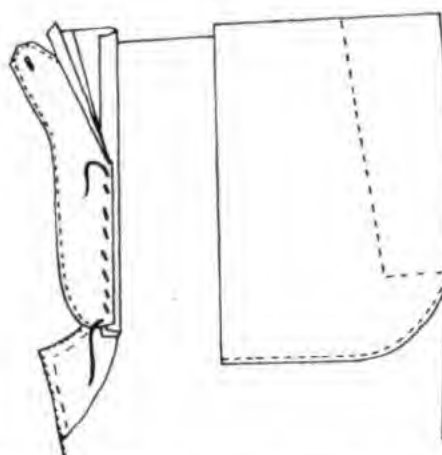
Place the pants fly, face down, on top of the zipper, matching fly notch to pants notch. Fold back the pocketing.

Baste the fly, zipper, pants, and reinforcement together. Use a zipper foot, and stitch close to the teeth of the zipper. Stitch from the waist to notch, tacking well at the top and bottom.

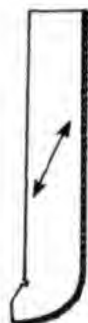
Slash at the notch, right up to the stitchline.



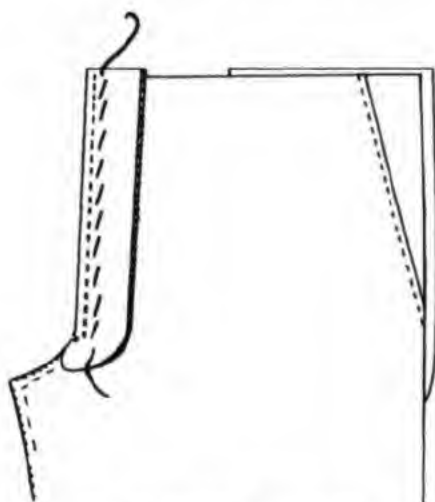
Press the zipper and fly seam open. On the right side, topstitch at the edge of the fly seam on the pants front. Hold the fly facing out of the way as you stitch.



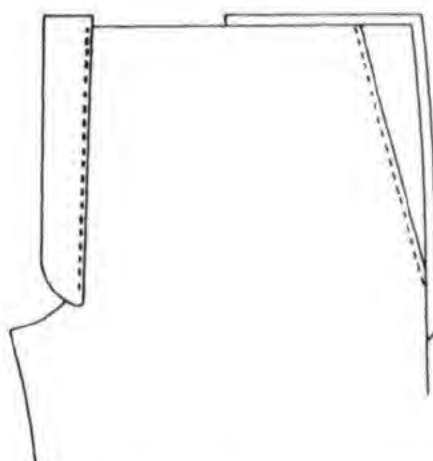
On the wrong side, the zipper seam allowance is concealed by folding first the reinforcement, and then the fly facing on top. The layers of pocketing are basted and then machine-stitched or slip-stitched along the edge. The garment fabric is not caught in these stitches.



Apply a bias-cut, woven fusible to the wrong side of the left fly, leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) margin of fabric free along the outer edge. Overcast along the outer edge of the fly.

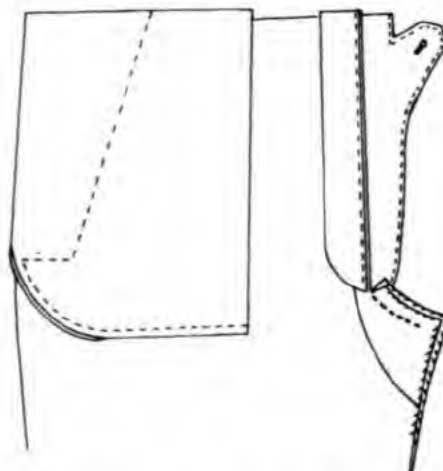


Right sides together, baste and then machine-stitch the left fly to the left pants front, waist to notch.

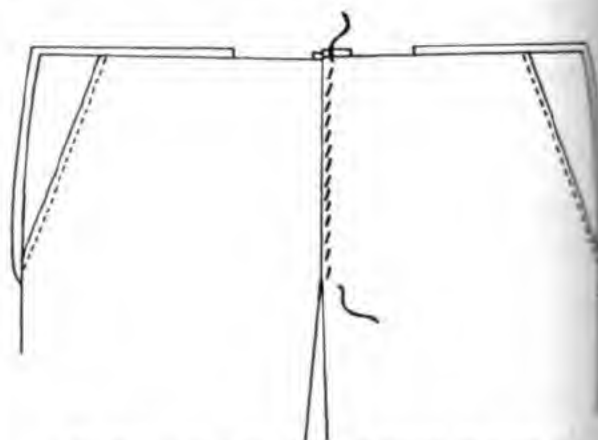


Press the seam allowance towards the fly and topstitch the fly to the seam allowance, stitching very close to the seam, waist to notch.

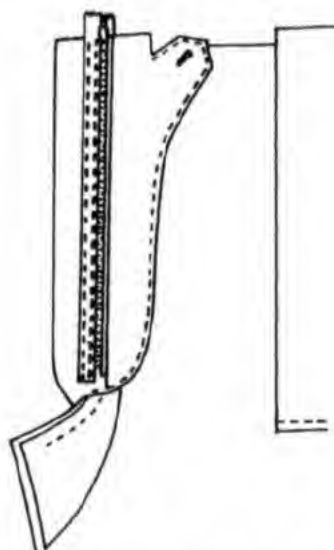
Bring the fly and the fly seam to the wrong side of the pants and press in place.



Place the two pants fronts together, right sides touching, and stitch along the crotch seam from the notch to 1" (2.5 cm) from the inseams. Tack well at either end.

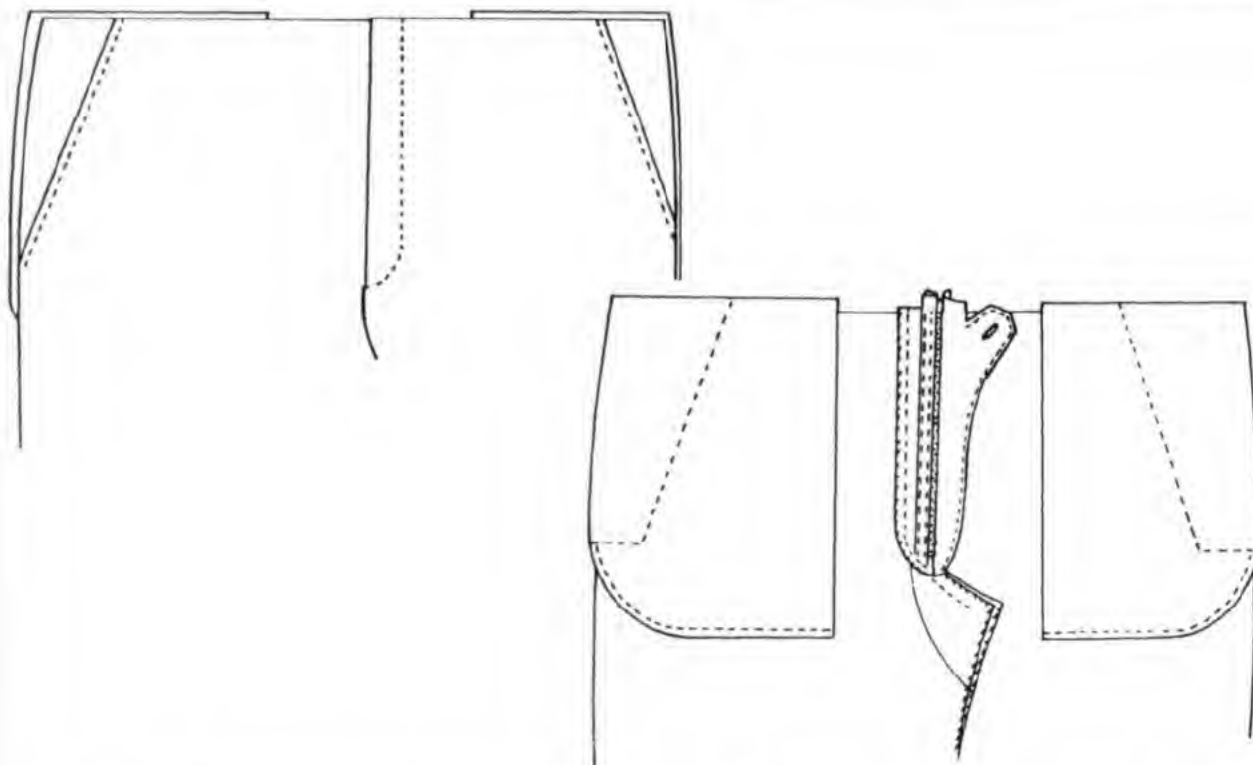


At the waistline, the left front should overlap the right by  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm), and taper naturally to the bottom of the zipper. Baste the fly closed: basting close to the fold on the edge of the left front.



On the inside, pull the right fly aside, and machine-stitch the zipper to the left fly. Only the fly and the zipper are caught in these stitches, and *not* the front of the pants. Machine-stitch

two rows on the zipper tape; one very close to the zipper teeth, the other at the edge of the tape.



About 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (3.2 cm) from center front, on the left front of the pants, chalkmark a line parallel to the folded edge of the fly, and taper the line to center front,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) below the bottom of the zipper. Baste through the front of the pants, catching the left fly (but not the right) underneath.

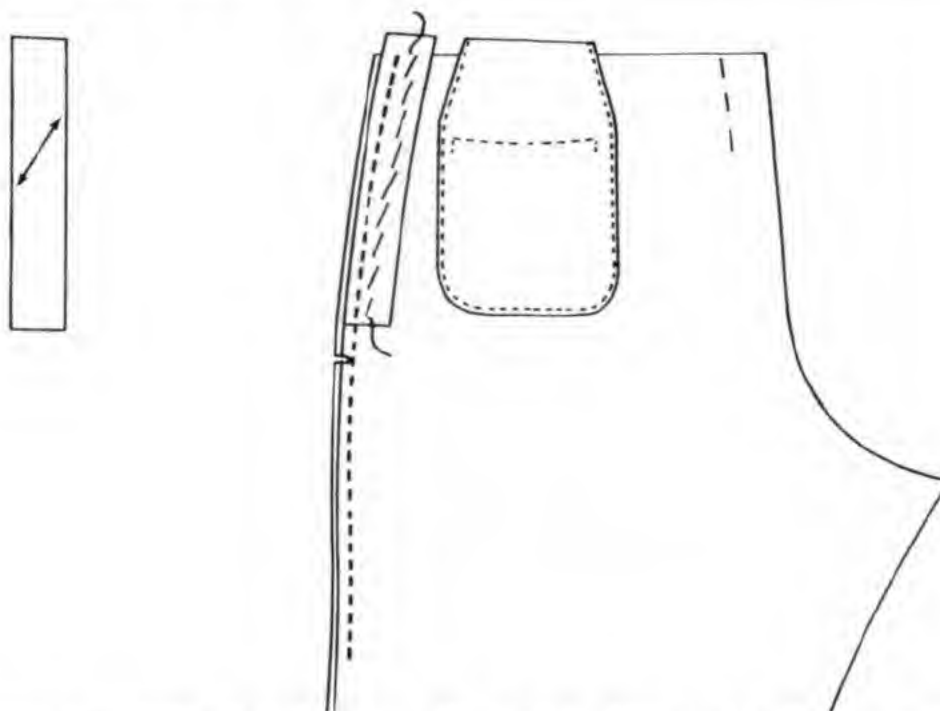
Machine topstitch along the chalkline, from the waist around to the notch, catching only the left fly underneath. Tack well at the notch. The fly is complete.

After the waistband has been constructed, a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) button will be attached at the waist stitchline for the French tab.

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## THE PANTS SIDE SEAMS

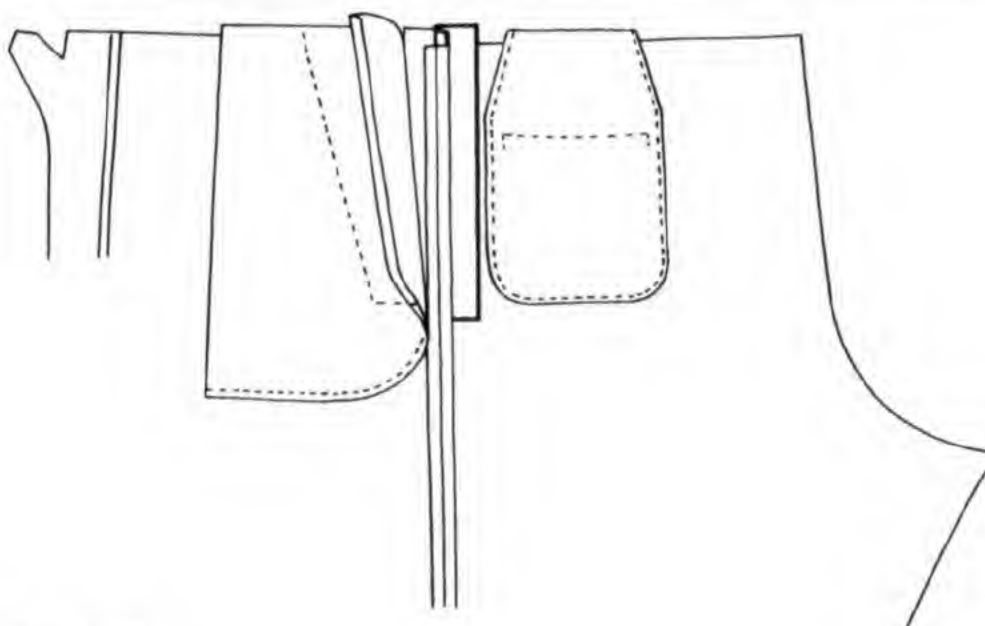
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The pants side seams are sewn only after all pockets and the fly have been completed, and before beginning the construction of the waistband.

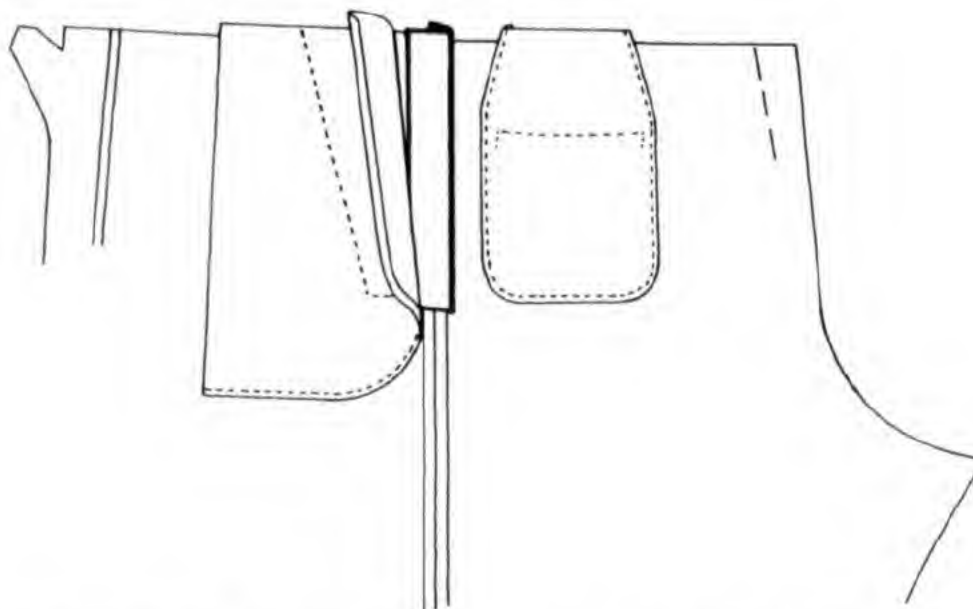
Cut a bias strip of pocketing about 8" (20.3 cm) long and 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) wide, to be used as reinforcement for the hip area of the side seam.

Baste the reinforcement to the wrong side of the back of the pants, at the top of the side seam. Machine-stitch the pants side seams, being sure to keep the front pockets out of the way as you stitch. The reinforcement is caught in the stitchline.



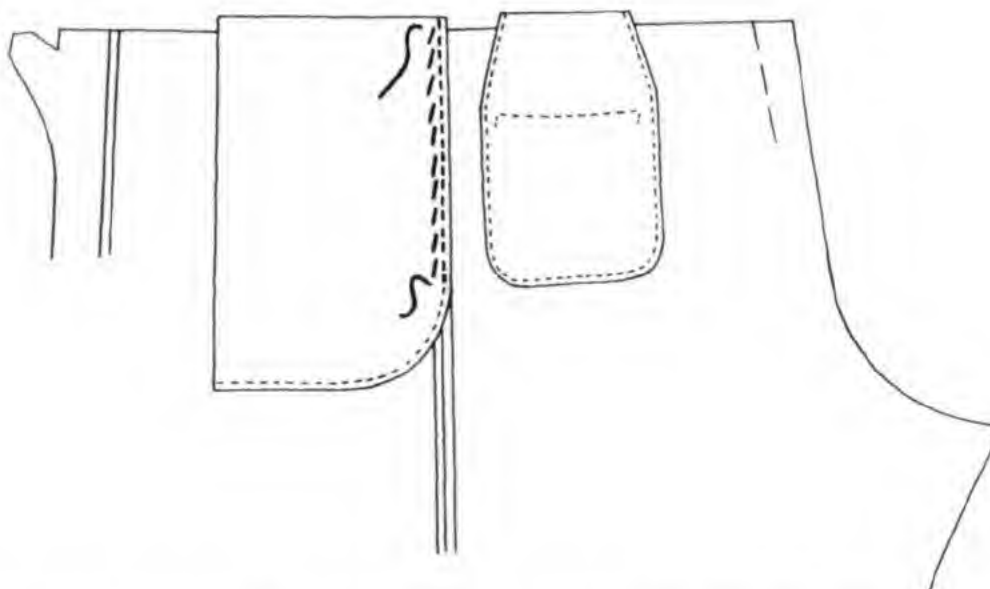
Press the seam open.





Bring the pocketing strip forward, fold it over the pants seam allowance, and press it in place.

Fold and press the edge of the front pocketing so that it reaches just to the edge of the back seam allowance.



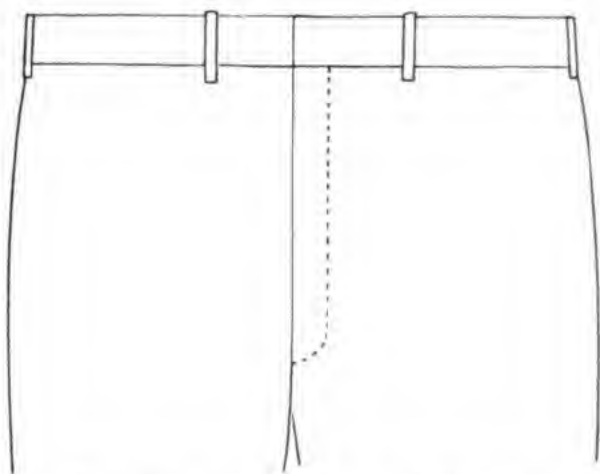
Machine-stitch along the edge of the front pocketing, catching the back seam allowance,

and the reinforcement strip. *Do not* catch the outside of the trousers in this stitch.

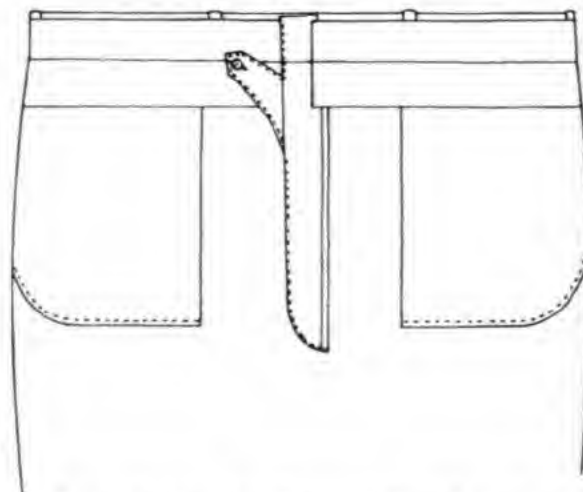
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# THE PANTS WAISTBAND

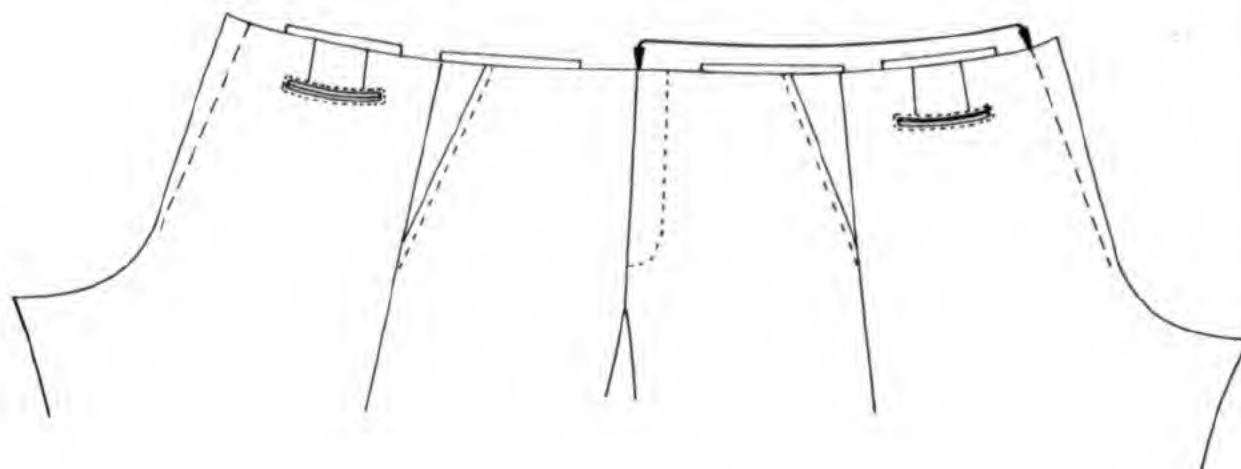
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The waistband is attached after the side seams have been sewn and before the crotch and inseams. The width of the waistband is a matter of preference—the average width being 1 1/2" (3.8 cm).



From the inside, the waistband is covered by a strip of pocketing; and just below the waistline a "curtain" of pocketing lines the top of the pants.

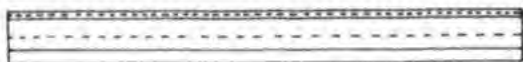


Measure across the top of one side of the pants from the center front to the center back stitchline. This measurement should equal one

half the waistline measurement. The center back seam at the waist is usually 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) wide to allow for alterations.

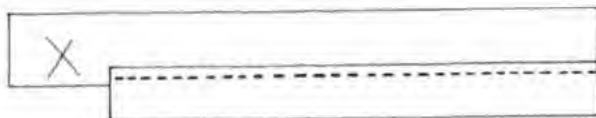


From garment fabric, cut on crossgrain, two waistband halves. The length should equal one half the waistline measurement (including the pants center back seam allowance), plus 4" (10.2 cm). The width equals the width of the finished waistband, plus seam allowance on top and bottom. The seam allowance should be whatever you are using as seam allowance at the pants waistline.



Cut two pieces of waistband interfacing, the length equal to one half the pants top measurement (including center back seam allowance). The interfacing is, therefore, 4" (10.2 cm) shorter than the garment fabric waistband.

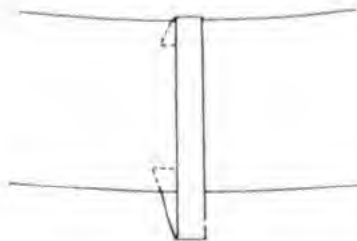
Measure the width of the stiffening on the waistband interfacing, and trim it if necessary. It should equal the width of the finished waistband. The fabric visible below the stiffening should equal the waistline seam allowance.



Place the top edge of the waistband interfacing face down at the top edge of the wrong side of the garment fabric. The interfacing extends onto the waistband an amount equal to the seam allowance. The excess garment fabric is left at the center front of the waistband. Machine-stitch the interfacing and garment fabric together, stitching close to the edge of the garment fabric.



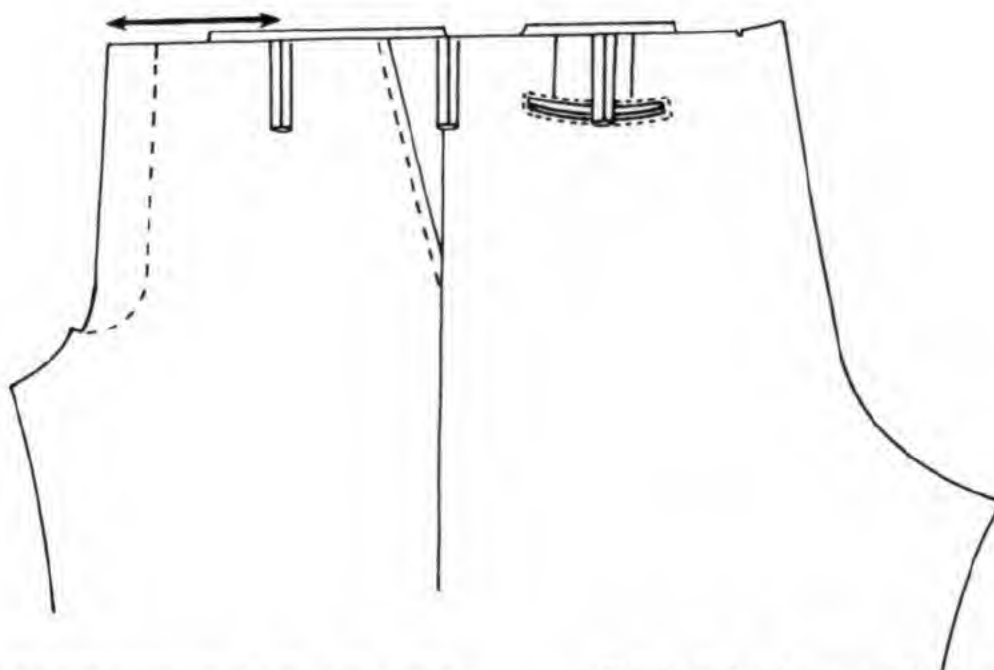
The garment fabric is now pulled down, over the top of the interfacing and machine-basted in place. Stitch along the stiffening. The bottom of the garment fabric should now be at the bottom edge of the waistband interfacing.



Cut a strip of garment fabric long enough to construct seven belt loops, or carriers. The length of each loop, of course, depends on the width of the waistband, and the amount of seam allowance you are using at the waistline. The loops must be long enough to run from the top of the waistline seam allowance down to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) below the waist stitchline, and then extend up and over the top of the waistband by about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm). The finished loops should be about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) wide.

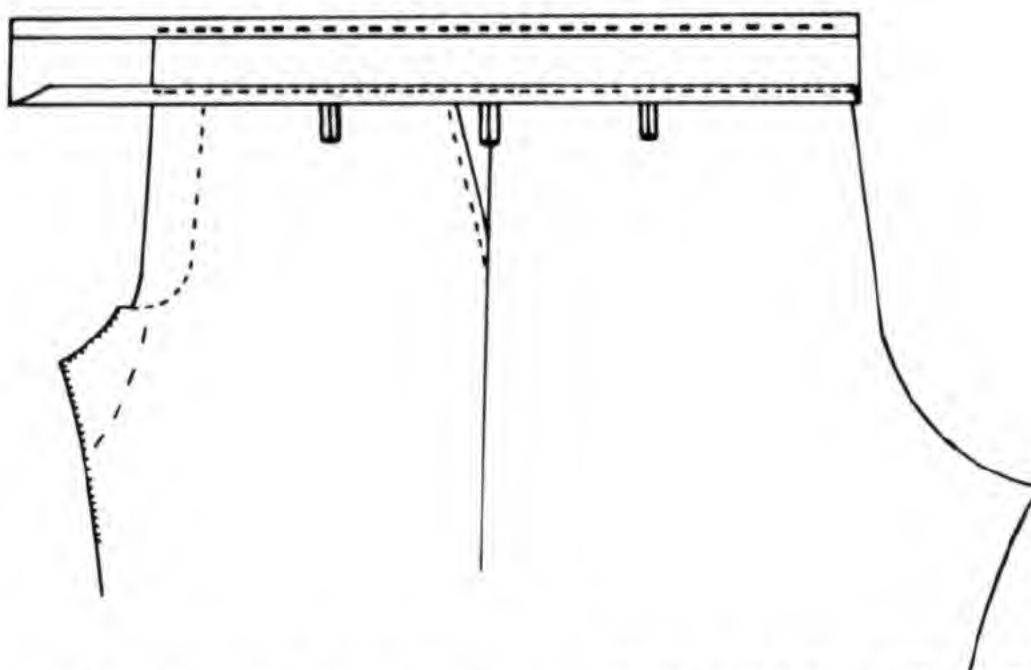


Press the seam allowance open, and cut the fabric strip *before* turning it to the right side. It will be very difficult to turn a strip which is equivalent to the length of four loops or more. On the right side, press the seam allowance to the center of the strip and cut the loops.



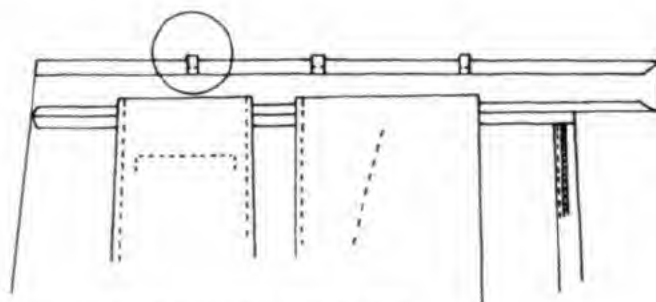
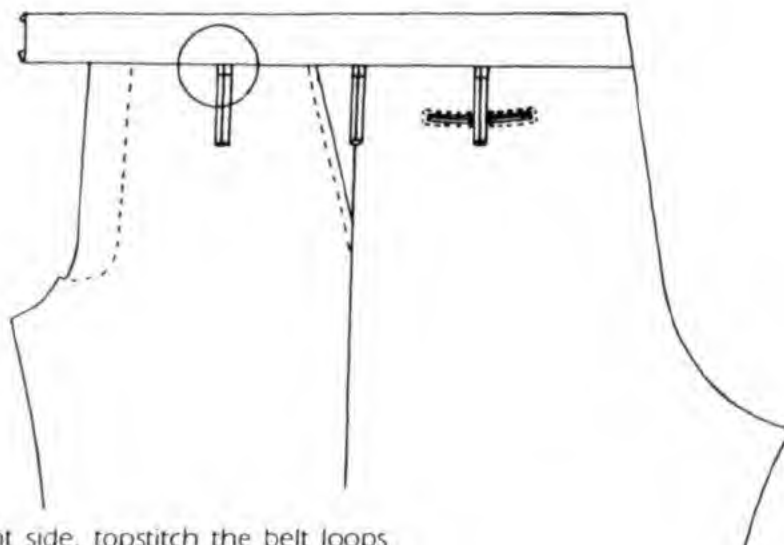
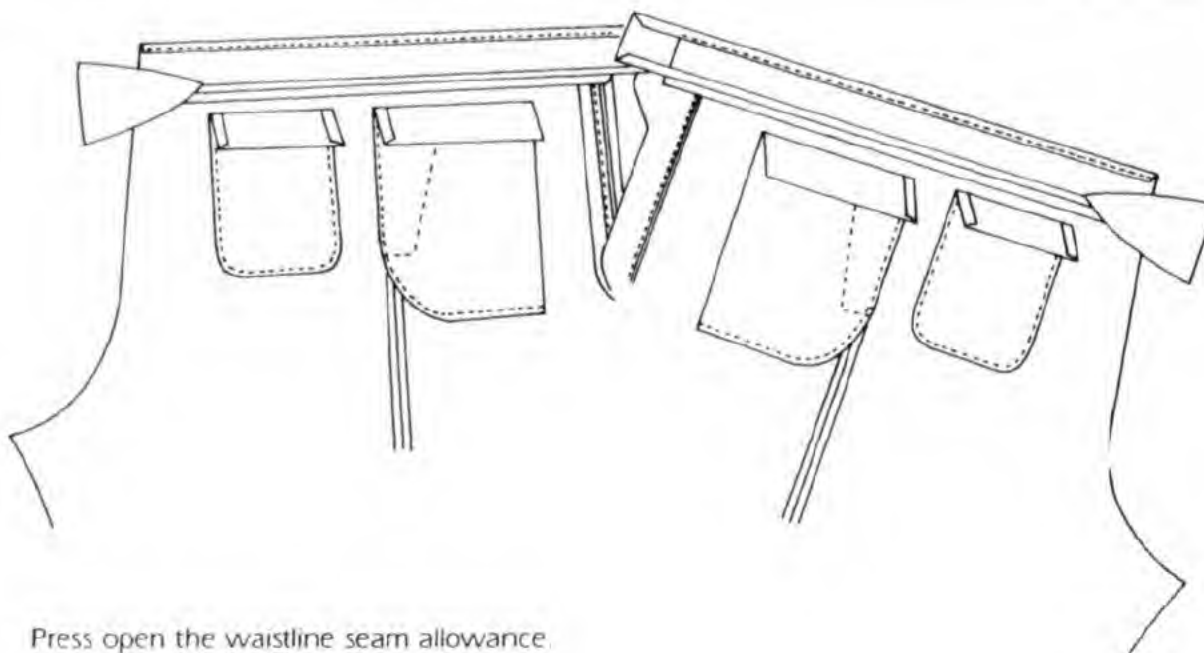
Baste the belt loops on the right side of the pants,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.4 cm) from center front, at the side seam and at the center of the back of the pants. The seams on the loops should be facing up.

The loop for the center back seamline will be attached after the waistband is complete.



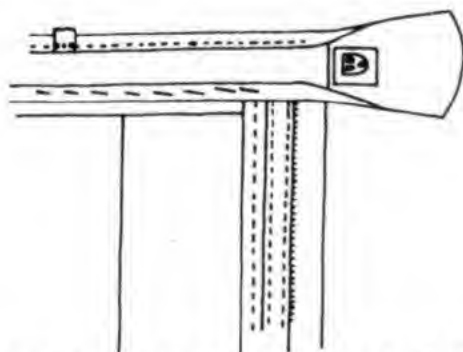
The pocketing from the front and back pockets should be pulled down, out of the way, so that it will not be caught in the waistline seam.

Machine-stitch the waistband and interfacing to the pants, stitching just above the stiffening. The belt loops are caught as you stitch.

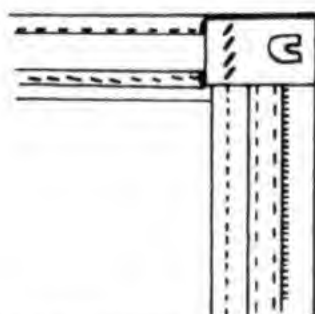




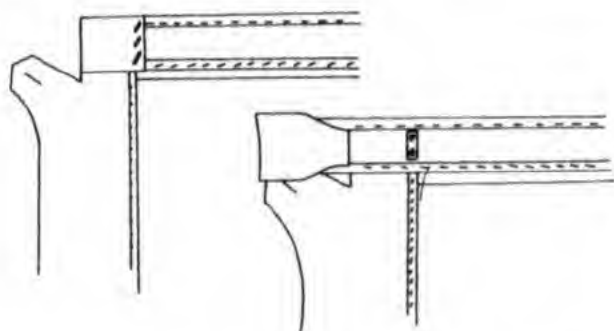
Tailors' belt fasteners are made of four metal pieces which fit together (as illustrated).



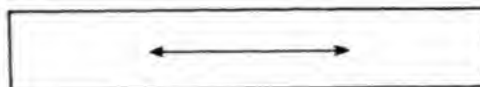
Attach the hook to the end of the left waistband, just beyond the center front. A small piece of interfacing is placed on the wrong side under the metal, as reinforcement for the fabric.



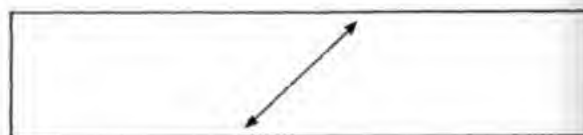
Fold the extension to the wrong side of the waistband and baste in place.



Attach the eye to the right waistband and baste the extension in place over it.



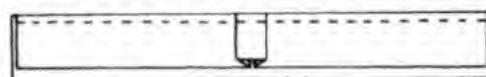
The waistband facing and the curtain below it, are now constructed from pocketing. Cut two facing pieces on the crossgrain, 3 (7.6 cm) longer than the finished waistband half. The facing width is equal to the finished waistband, plus seam allowance at the top and bottom.



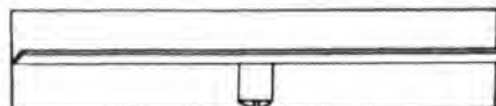
The two curtain pieces are cut on the bias, 2" (5 cm) longer than the facing. The width is twice that of the finished waistband, plus seam allowance at the top and bottom.



Fold the curtain in half lengthwise, and at the center, press a box pleat, each side of which is 1/2" (1.3 cm) deep.

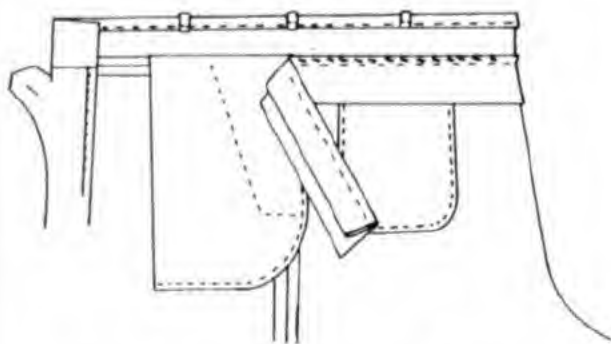


Place the curtain, pleat opening face down, on top of the facing, and machine-stitch them together.

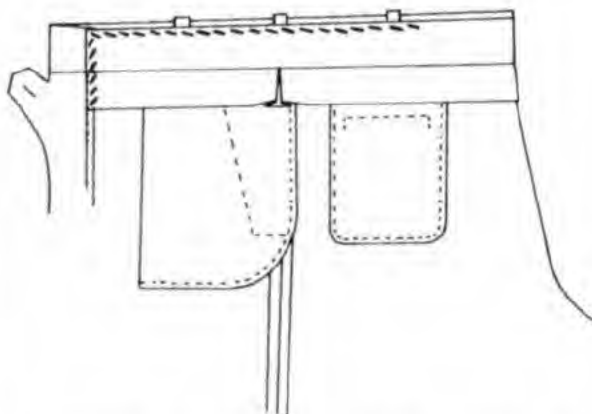


Press the seam allowance up towards the facing.

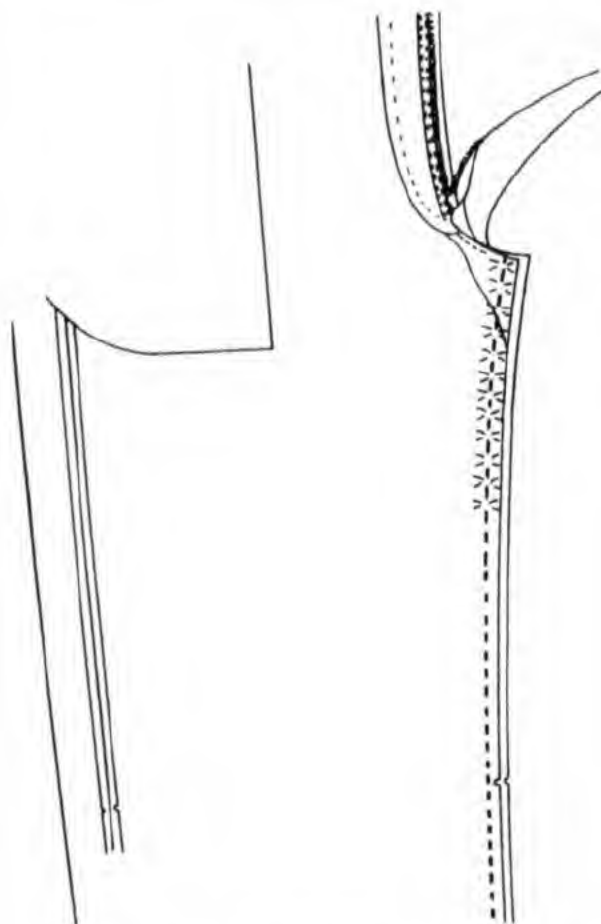




With the curtain pleat at the pants side seam, diagonal-stitch the facing/curtain seam allowance into the waistband seam allowance.

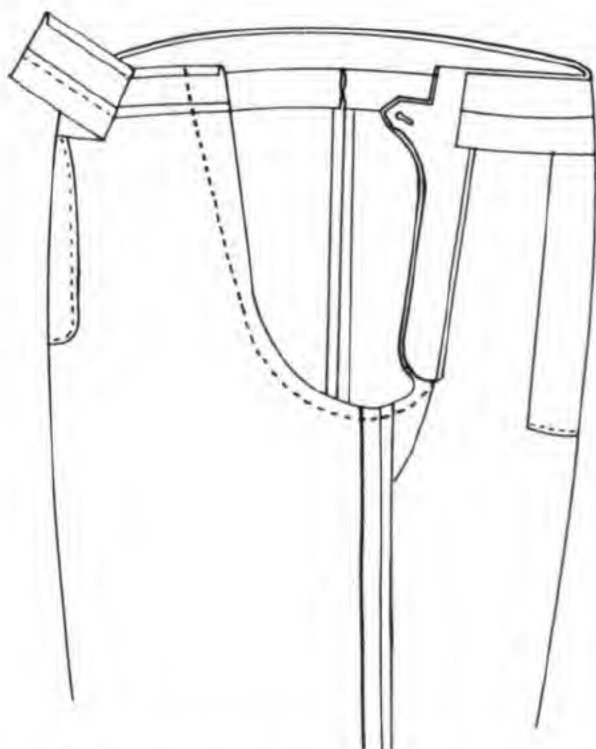


Bring the facing up to cover the back of the waistband. Fold and baste the facing  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) from the top, and cover the raw edge of the waistband extension. Leave about 3" (7.6 cm) free at the back so that the center back seam can eventually be sewn without obstruction.



At this point, the inseams are sewn. Keep in mind that the back inseam seam allowance is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) wider than the front seam allowance (page 16).

Pin the inseams together at the knee notch, and begin basting towards the top. The front inseam is about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) longer than the back to allow for the forward stretch of the leg. Place this  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) ease in the upper thigh area of the front inseam. Stretch the back inseam gently as you machine stitch, so that there is only ease, and not tucks, in the front inseam. Press the seam open.

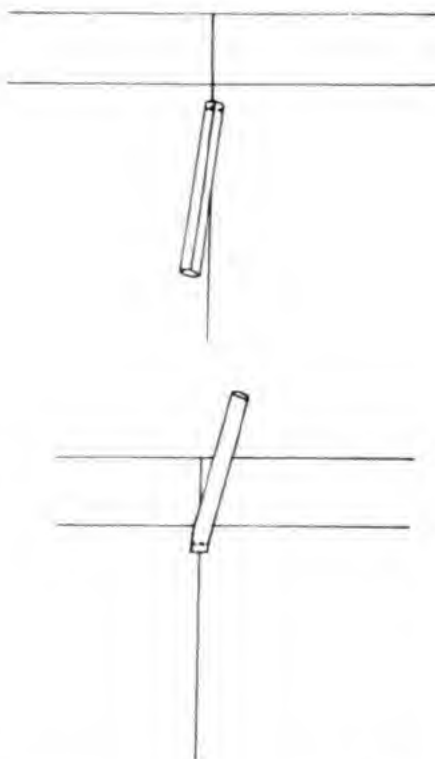


The center back seam is now sewn from the top of the waistband, along the crotch, to the fly. Press the seam open.

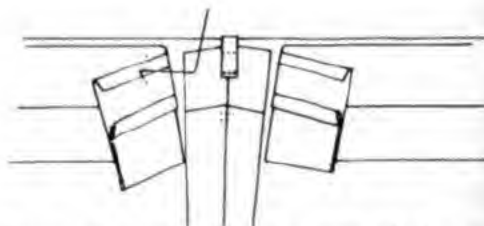


With the pants turned right side out, and the inseam and outseam of each leg aligned, press a crease from hem to about hip level, front and back. Press first on the inseam and then on the outseam side of each leg.

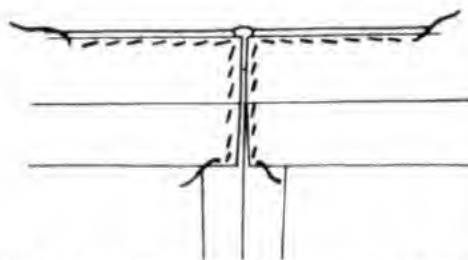
If there are front pleats, the front crease meets the deeper of the two pleats at the waistline.



At center back,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) below the waistline seam, place the raw edge of the last belt loop, seam facing upwards. Back-stitch the top edge of the loop into the pants. Bring the loop up, and back-stitch once more, far enough above the first stitches to hide the raw edge of the loop.



Fold the loop over the top of the waistband, and stitch it into the interfacing.



Fold the curtain and facing on either side of the center back seam, and baste in place. The top and ends of the facing and curtain are finished with a small back-stitch, using silk finishing thread.

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## THE WATCH POCKET

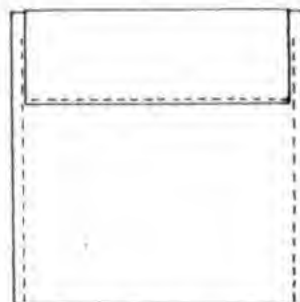
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During the construction of the pants waistband, a small pocket may be placed in the waist seamline. This was formerly used as a *watch pocket*, but is today more commonly used for other small valuables—large bills, for example.

You will need a piece of pocketing, straight grain, 4" (10.2 cm) by 8" (20.3 cm) and a straight grain piece of garment fabric, 3 1/4" (8 cm) by 2" (5 cm), to be used as facing.

Fold up 1/4" (6 mm) at the bottom edge of the facing and topstitch the facing and the pock-

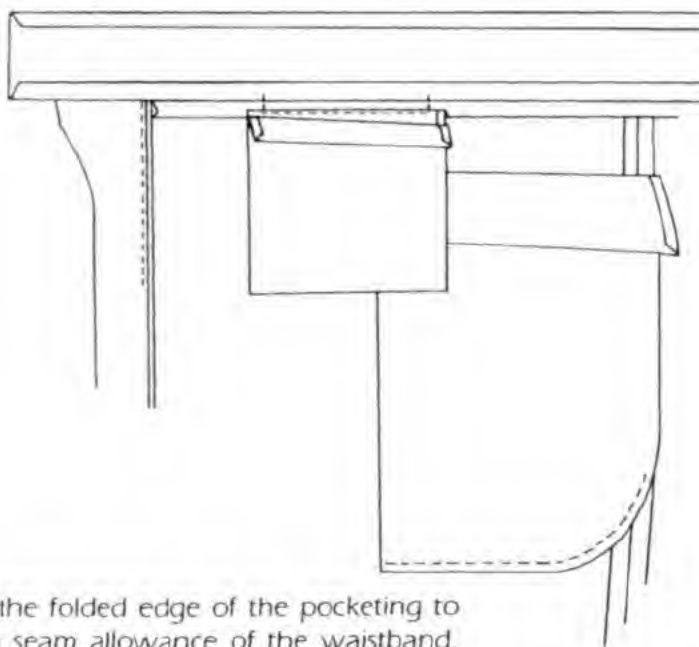


eting together. Leave 3/8" (1 cm) pocketing visible at either side of the facing.

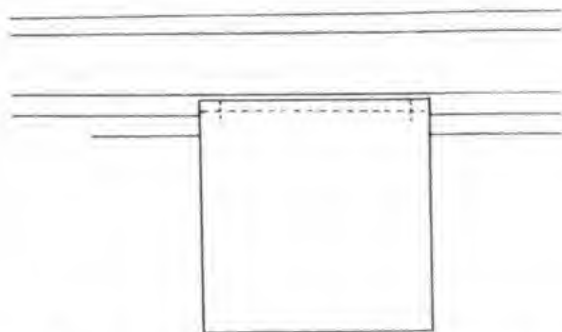
At the bottom edge of the pocketing, fold under 3/8" (1 cm), and press.

Bring the bottom of the pocketing up so that the folded edge is now 5/8" (1.6 cm) from the top of the unfaced side of the pocketing.

Sew a 3/8" (1 cm) seam at each side of the pocket. Turn the pocket inside out and press.

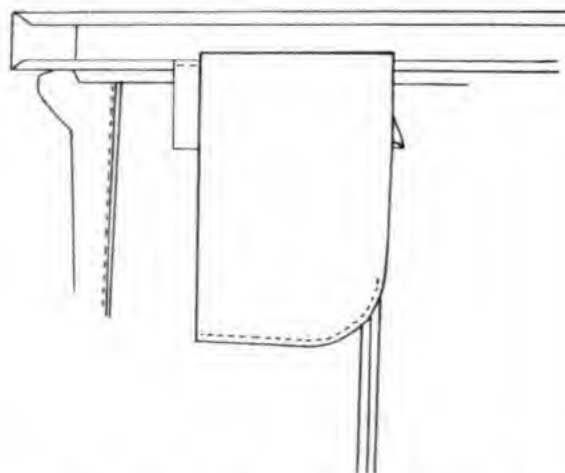


Stitch the folded edge of the pocketing to the bottom seam allowance of the waistband. Stitch through to the right side of the pants, and secure the stitches at either end.



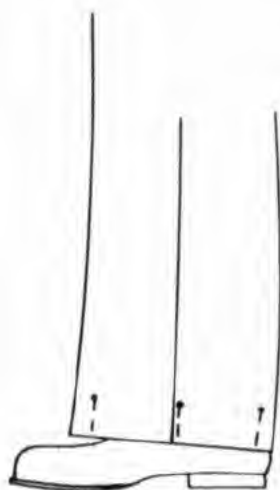
The top edge of the faced side of the pocket is now stitched through the top seam allowance of the waistband, and the waistband itself. Each end of the stitchline is secured with a short vertical row of stitching.

On the front of the pants, the waistline seam is opened between the vertical stitchlines, to create access to the watch pocket.



On the inside, the side pocket is laid flat on top of the smaller pocket, and the construction of the waistband is continued.

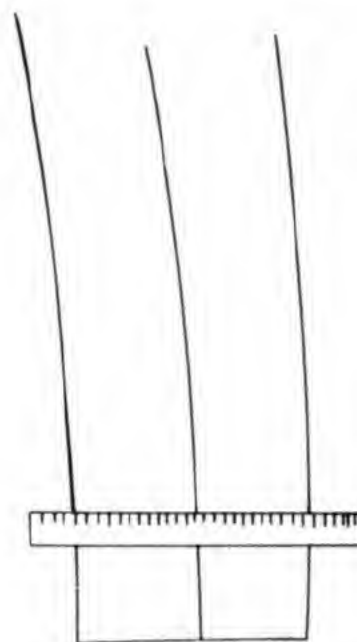
## THE PANTS HEM

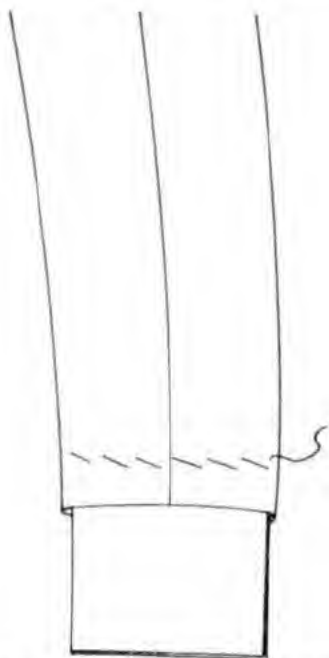


The pants hem should reach to about the middle of the back of the shoe, and cover the top of the shoe in the front. If the hem hits the front of the shoe, the pants will "break" at about ankle level. A slight break at the front is absolutely acceptable. The break or lack of it, is a matter of preference. The top of the shoe, how-

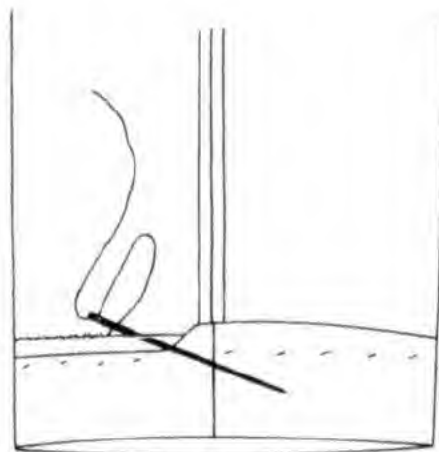
ever, should be covered. Pin the bottom of the pants to the desired length.

Chalkmark the hem foldline on the right side of the fabric.

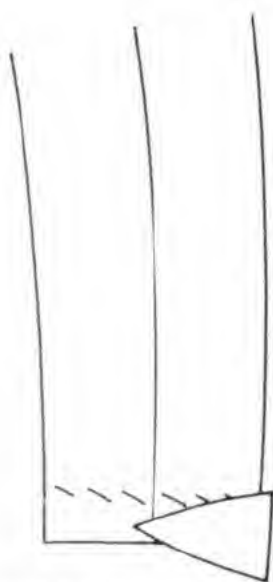




Baste the hem up, keeping the stitches about 1" (2.5 cm) below the top of the hem. A piece of cardboard placed in the pants leg at the hem, will facilitate the basting and prevent the stitches from catching the other side of the pants.



Fold back about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) at the top of the hem and hem-stitch the hem into the pants, using silk finishing thread. These stitches should not be visible on the right side of the garment; nor should any puckering be visible, from having pulled the thread unnecessarily tight.

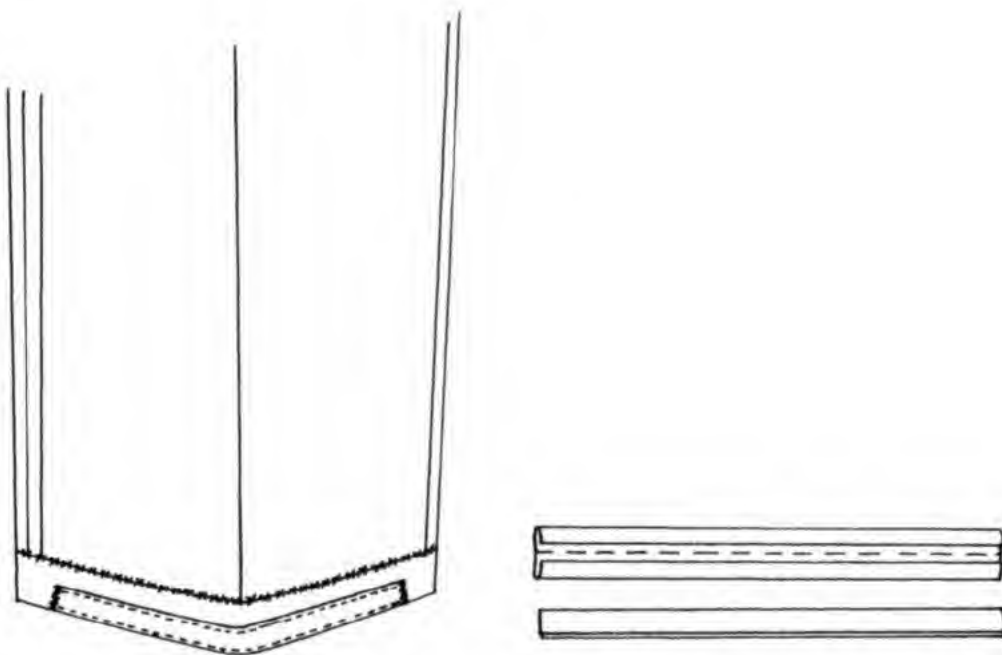


Steam press the hem flat, on the right side of the fabric, using a presscloth.

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# THE HEEL STAY

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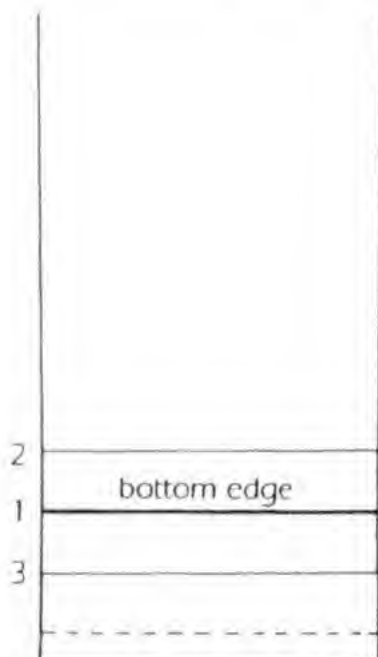


A strip of fabric, called a *heel stay*, is now applied to the hem at the back of the pants. Its purpose is to protect the hem from wear in the area that will come into contact with the back of the shoe.

Cut a strip of garment fabric, about 7" (17.8 cm) long and 3" (7.6 cm) wide, and fold (as illustrated). Place the fabric just above the hem fold at the center of the back of the pants. Secure the heel stay to the hem by back-stitching along the folded edges, and by cross-stitching the raw edges at either end. These stitches should catch only the hem, and not go through to the right side of the pants.



# THE PANTS CUFFS

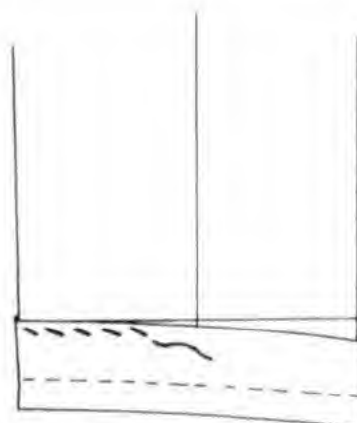


If you have chosen cuffs instead of a straight hem for the bottom of the pants, you will have left quite a bit of fabric below what you determined to be the bottom edge of the pants (page 16). Now, several lines are drawn on the right side of the fabric, as guides in creating the cuff.

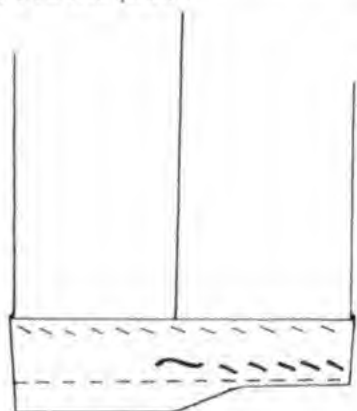
First, draw a line indicating what will be the bottom edge of the pants; keeping in mind that cuffed pants need to start out slightly longer  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) than those with straight hems. Some of the length always gets lost in the folds.

Draw one line above the first, and two lines below it, all at a distance equal to the width of the cuff. An average cuff is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.8 cm) wide.

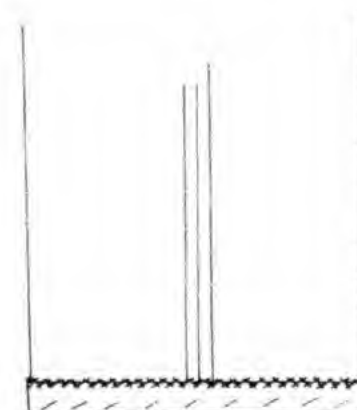
Below the last line leave about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) hem, and trim away whatever fabric is left at the bottom of the pants.



Working on the right side of the pants, fold the fabric on line #3, and bring the fold up to meet line #2. This fold will be the top of the finished cuff. Baste around the top of the cuff, attaching it to the pants.



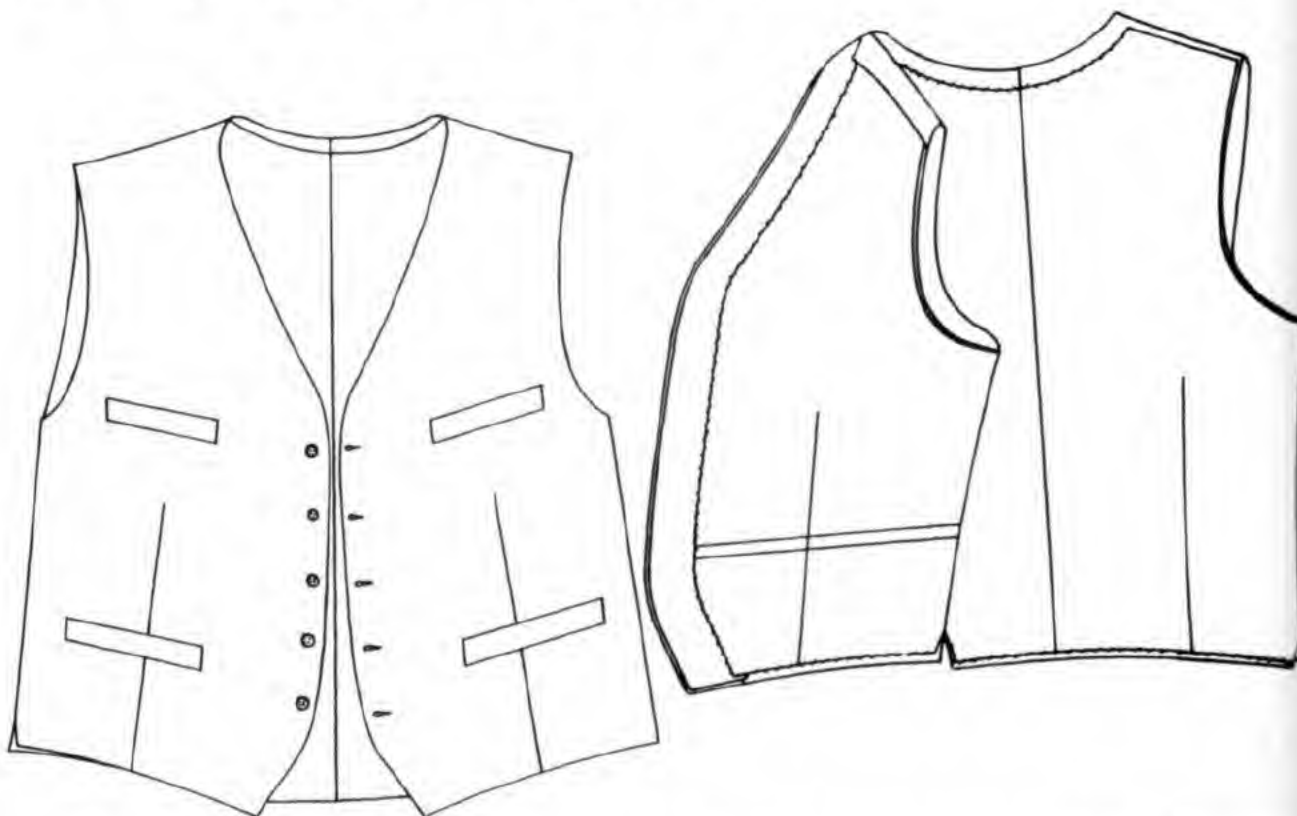
Fold the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) hem to the wrong side of the pants, and baste around the bottom of the cuff, attaching the hem to the pants.



On the wrong side of the pants, cross-stitch along the top of the hem, catching the inner layer of the cuff as you stitch.

Press the cuff flat from the right side.

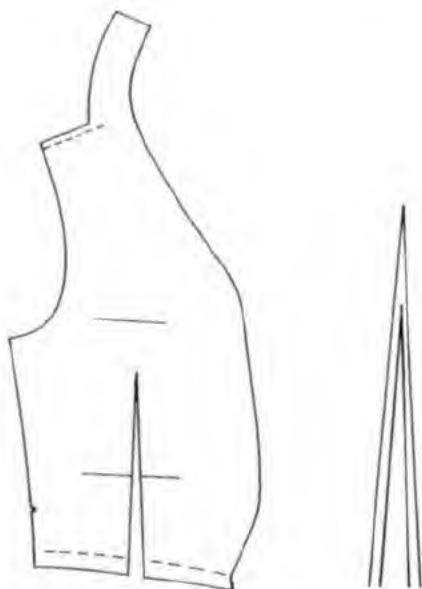
# 8 The Vest



The classic tailored vest is single breasted, with two or four welt pockets. It is customary that only one vest button be visible above the jacket lapel when both vest and jacket are buttoned. If too much vest is showing, it will interfere with the line of the lapel. The front of the vest should be long enough to cover the belt buckle.

The front of the classic tailored vest is constructed of garment fabric, and is reinforced with

a layer of woven fusible interfacing. The vest back is made of lining fabric, coordinated in color with the front fabric. Since the vest is close-fitting, and dyes from colored linings might stain the shirt, the front and back vest pieces are lined with a white-colored lining as a precaution. The vest is faced along the front edge with a strip of garment fabric which extends around to the center back at the neckline.



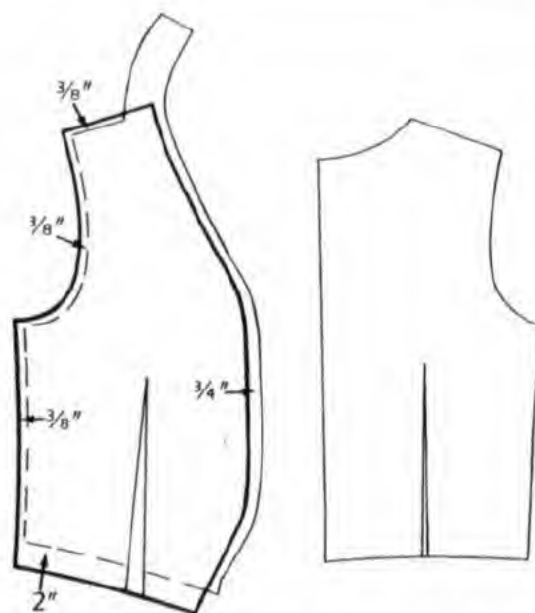
Cut the vest front from garment fabric and chalkmark the pattern information on the right side of the fabric, rather than by tailor tacking. Since we will be applying fusible to the wrong side of the vest front, the tailor tacks would become caught in the fusible, and be difficult to remove.

Slash the dart to 1" (2.5 cm) from the tip, and trim the seam allowance at the dart ends to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm).



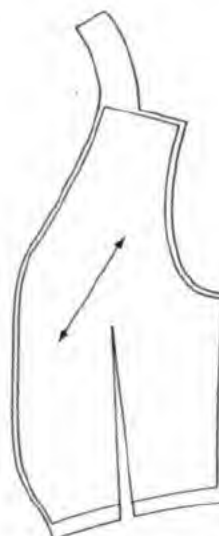
Cut the vest back from lining fabric, making sure that the side seam allowance is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) wider than that on the vest front. This is done to permit future alteration of the vest (which will involve the back of the vest rather than the front).

The back dart will not be slashed as was the front, since the fabric here is less bulky.



Cut the vest lining from a white lining fabric, using the vest pattern. The lining is cut larger than the vest at the shoulder, armhole, side seam, and hem, by the dimensions indicated in the illustration. Along the front edge, the lining is cut  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) narrower than the pattern.

The back lining is cut identical in size to the back of the vest.

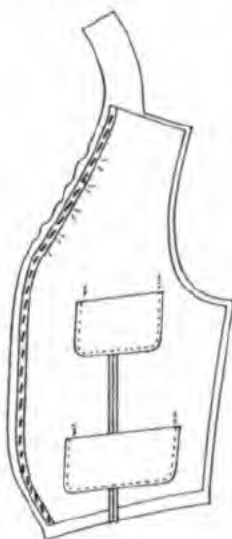


Apply bias-cut woven fusible to the wrong side of the vest front, leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) margin of fabric free at the front edge, the shoulder, and the armhole. The fusible does not extend into the side seam allowance, nor below the hem fold.

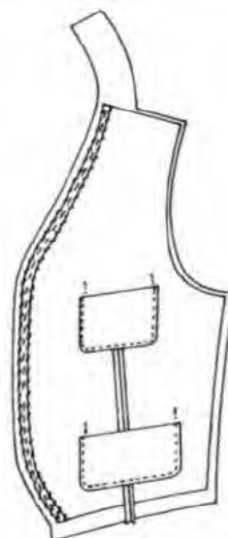


Using the directions for the construction of jacket pockets, place welt pockets, double-piping, or patch pockets on the front of the vest. The placement line for the breast level pocket is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (11.4 cm) long, and 5" (12.7 cm) for the pocket at the waist.

It is not necessary to use reinforcement pieces in the construction of vest pockets, since the entire front of the vest has already been reinforced with a fusible.

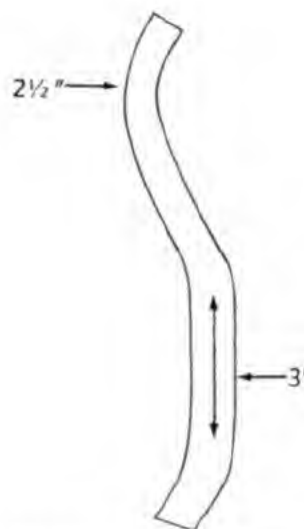


Place a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) wide cotton twill tape (which has been soaked in cool water and pressed) along the vest front edge, from shoulder to hem fold. The cotton tape is basted about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm) beyond the fusible, in the seam allowance. At the center of the diagonal, the tape is pulled gently, creating tiny ripples on the fabric along the edge of the tape. This pulling of the tape will assist in drawing the vest towards the body in this bias area, and prevent the vest from gaping open.

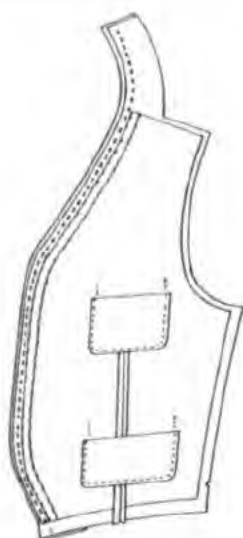


The tape is slip-stitched to the vest using silk finishing thread. The stitches should not be visible on the right side of the fabric.

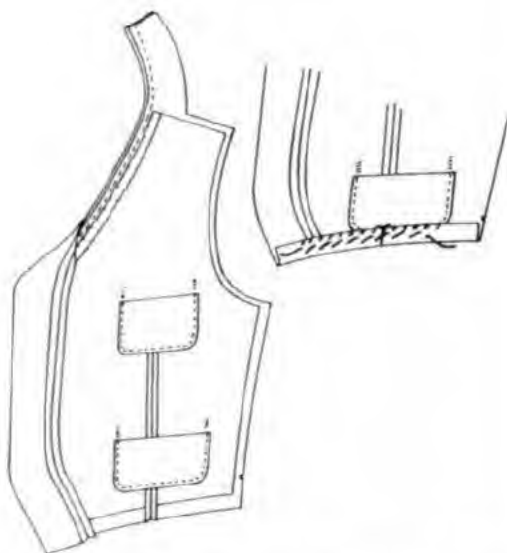
Press the tape.



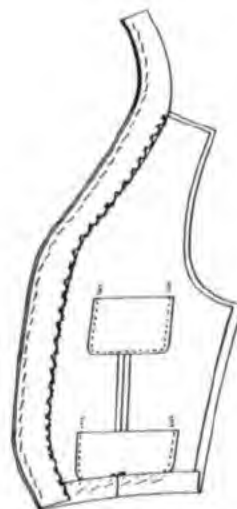
Cut the facing from garment fabric, straight grain, using the vest front pattern. The facing is about 3" (7.6 cm) wide at center front, and slightly narrower at the diagonal, and around the back neck.



Place the facing and vest front together, right sides touching; and machine-stitch about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm) beyond the tape in the seam allowance, from center back neck to the bottom of the vest.

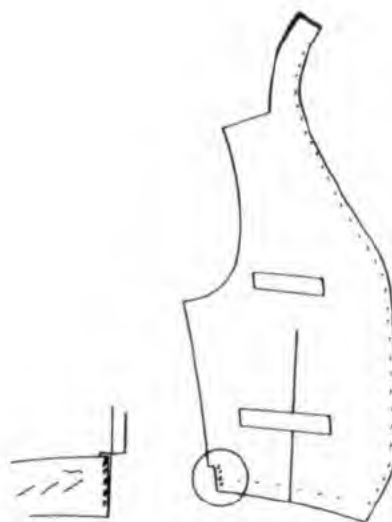


Press the seam open, and baste up the hem. The hem is secured into the fusible using silk thread, and small diagonal stitches which are not visible on the right side of the fabric. *Be careful* not to stitch through both layers of pocketing, or you will shorten the inside of the pocket considerably.

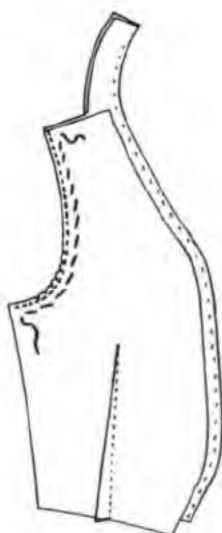


The facing and the facing seam are now brought to the wrong side of the vest and basted in place along the front edge. Cross-stitch the inner edge of the facing into the fusible, using silk thread; stitches will not be visible from the right side of the vest.

Press the facing from the wrong side.

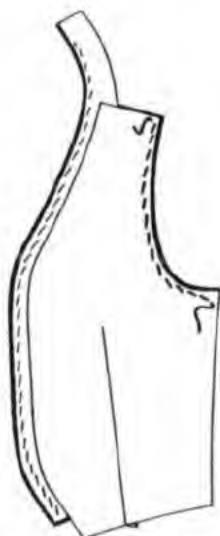


At the top of the hem, the side seam allowance is slashed to the stitchline. The seam allowance below the slash is folded and basted into the hem, and finished with a slip-stitch along the side.



Machine-stitch the dart in the front lining, and press it towards the side seam.

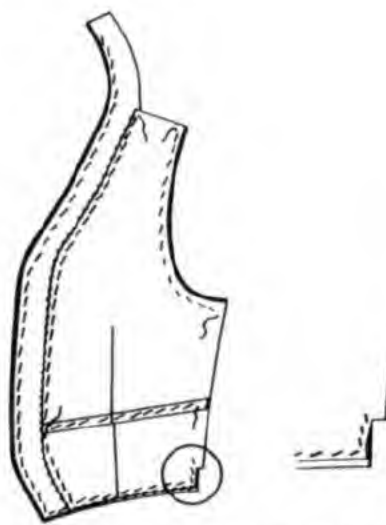
With the right side of the lining touching the right side of the vest front, baste the two together along the armhole. The armhole seam is machine-stitched and trimmed to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm). The curved area of the armhole is slashed close to the stitchline.



The front lining and the lining seam are now brought to the wrong side of the vest and basted in place.



A  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) pleat is basted into the lining at about mid-dart level, for lengthwise ease. The lining is folded and basted just covering the stitches along the inner edge of the facing. A thin margin of garment fabric is left visible below the lining at the hem fold.



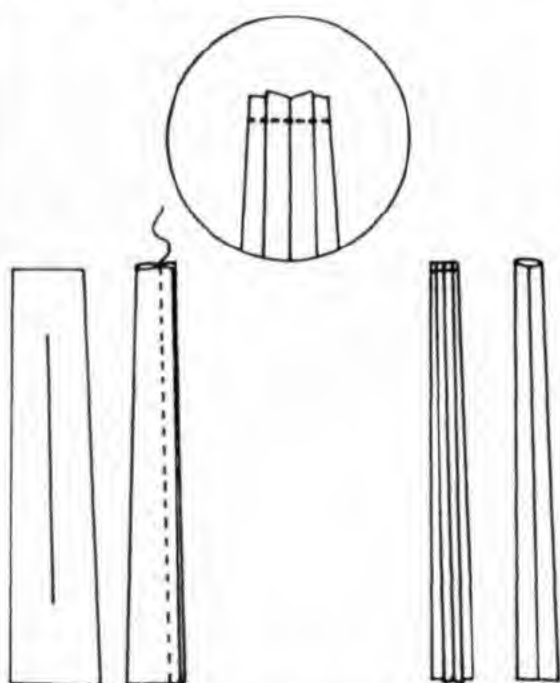
The lining is slashed to the stitchline above the hem, at the side seam, and then folded and basted into the hem.

Using silk finishing thread, slip-stitch the lining along the edge of the facing and across the hem.





The vest back and the vest back lining are cut and prepared identically. Machine-stitch the darts and the center back seams. The darts are pressed towards the side, and the center back seams are pressed open.

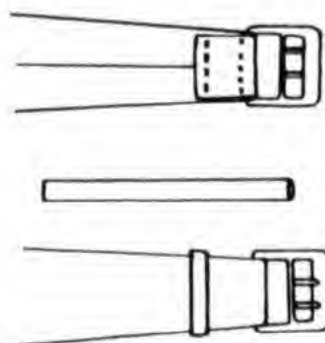


A belt is now constructed from the same fabric used on the back of the vest. Cut two belt halves, straight grain,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) by 1" (2.5 cm) finished width, and 1" (2.5 cm) longer, finished, than the width of the back of the vest at mid-dart level.

Stitch each piece lengthwise, and press seam open.

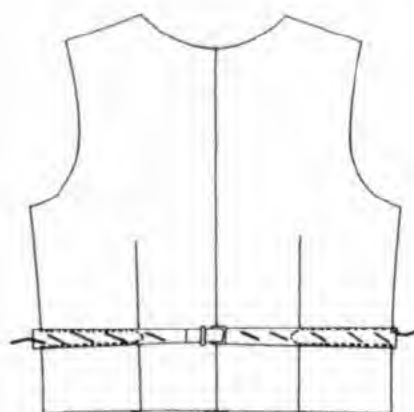
Stitch across the narrow end of one of the belt halves, and turn both belts to the right side.

Press the seam to the center of the belt.

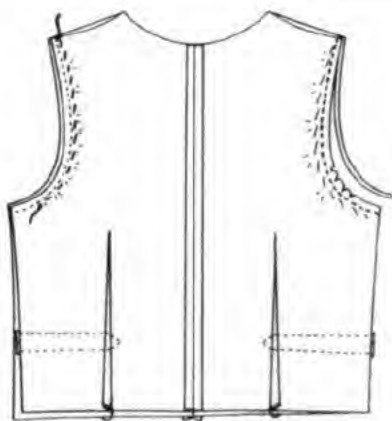


At the narrow end of the open belt-half, attach a vest buckle (available at tailoring supply stores), and back-stitch the buckle in place.

Construct a loop from the back vest fabric, straight grain, twice the width of the belt by  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) finished; and attach the loop to the belt, 1" (2.5 cm) away from the buckle.

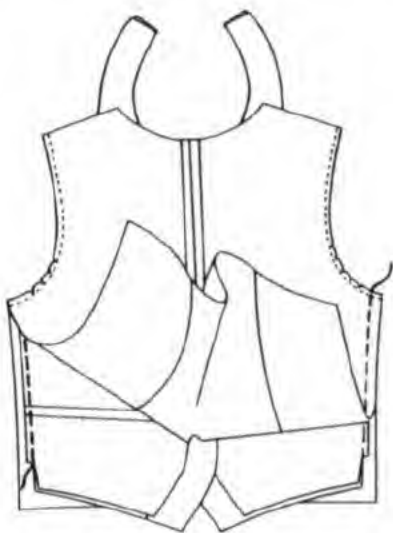


Close the belt, and baste it in place on the back of the vest, at about mid-dart level. Top-stitch the belt to the vest back (as illustrated).



Place the vest back on top of the back lining, right sides touching, and baste along the armhole, easing the vest armhole in from the lining edge about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm). Trim the lining even with the vest back at the armhole, and machine-stitch the armhole, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) seam.

Clip the curved area of the armhole seam allowance close to the stitchline.



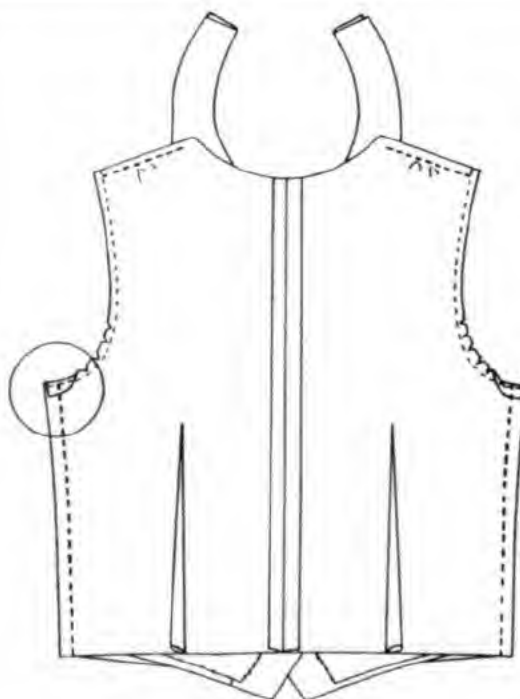
Machine-stitch the side seams in a manner which will hide all seam allowances.

With the wrong side of the white vest lining on top, insert the vest fronts between the two back layers.

The front and back armholes should be touching, and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) margin of vest back fabric should remain visible beyond the vest front along the side seam. (The back seam allowance is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) wider than the front.)

Baste the vest front and back together at the side seam.

Bring the back lining down over the vest fronts, and baste it in place along the side seam.



At the top of the side seam, bring the armhole seam allowance, and a bit of the vest back fabric onto the lining, and baste it in place. This will prevent the white lining from showing through on the right side at the underarm.

Machine-stitch the side seam, catching all layers, tacking well at the underarm.

Baste, and then machine-stitch, the shoulder seam to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) past the edge of the facing, placing about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) ease in the lining at the shoulder. *Do not* stitch all the way to the end of the lining-neck edge, as we will need room to fold this edge shortly.

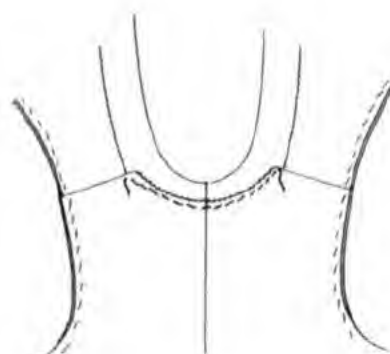


Turn the vest so that the right side of the lining is visible, and stitch the center back neckline seam. Press seam open.

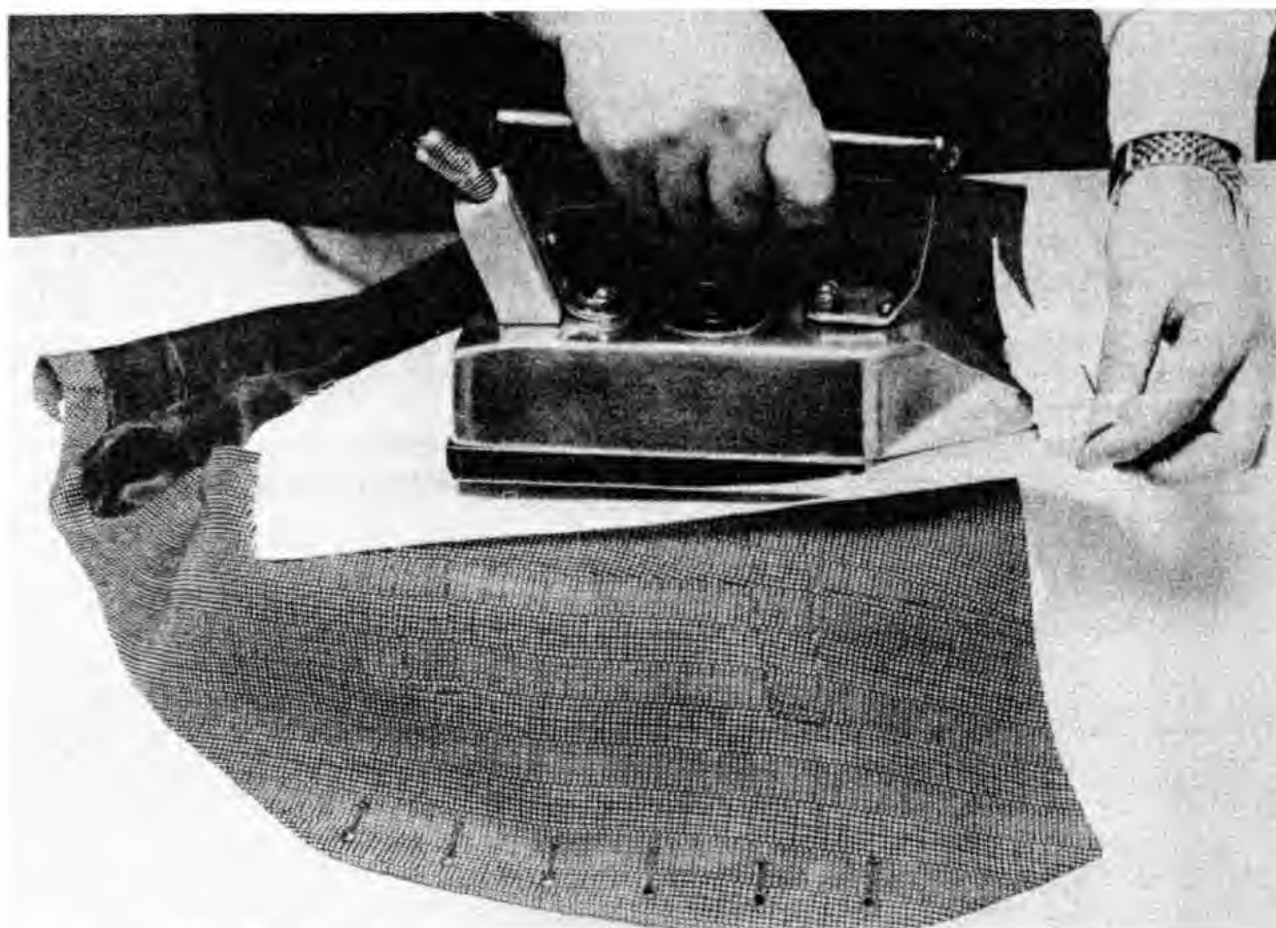


On the right side, and on the wrong side of the vest back, baste the lining fabric along the edge of the garment fabric at the neckline.

Slip-stitch the seams using silk finishing thread.



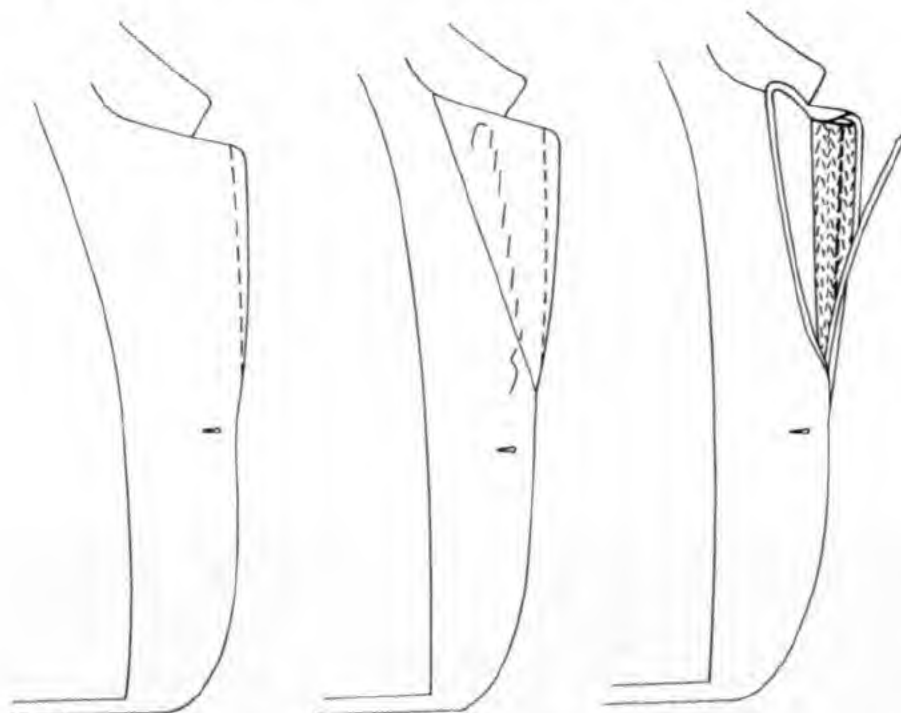
Buttons and buttonholes on the vest are accomplished following the instructions on pages 171–176. A  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) button is appropriate.



Before the buttons are set, steam press the vest gently over a tailor's ham.

# 9 Alterations

## TAPERING THE JACKET LAPELS



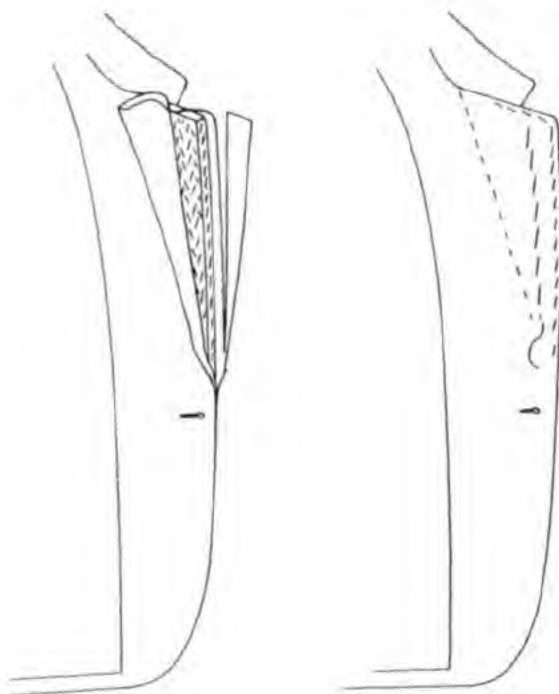
Because of constant changes in fashion, a frequent tailoring alteration is the tapering of jacket lapels.

The first step in this alteration, is to chalkmark on the front of the lapel, a line indicating the desired change in width.

Baste through the lapel, just beyond the jacket roll line to control the layers of fabric while you work.

Open the facing seam from collar notch to the bottom of the roll line, and remove the tape from the outer edge of the lapel. It is not necessary to remove the tape which lies across the top of the lapel, unless you are also changing this line.

Transfer onto the canvas a chalkline indicating the new finished edge of the lapel.



Trim the canvas (but not the garment fabric) along the chalkline, and baste  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) cotton twill tape (which has been soaked in cool water and pressed) along the length of the lapel. Allow the tape to extend into the seam allowance, beyond the canvas, by about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5 mm), to give the lapel a thinner edge.

Slip-stitch along both edges of the tape, using silk thread. The stitches should go through to the underside of the lapel, but should be small enough to be all but imperceptible.

Trim the garment fabric seam allowance to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm) beyond the tape, and trim slightly closer at the tip of the lapel.

The lapel seam allowance is now folded up onto the tape, and finished according to the instructions beginning on page 113.

If the lapel adjustment has been of a significant amount, it may now be necessary to modify the collar, to maintain a pleasing balance between collar and lapel. The collar can be tapered in the same manner as was the lapel, or, if you wish, a new collar can be drafted (page 151) and applied (page 137) using a new under-collar and (if necessary) the garment fabric from the old topcollar.

# ADJUSTING THE SLEEVE LENGTH



The jacket alteration done most often is probably the adjustment of the sleeve length. The length of the sleeve is primarily a matter of preference, and of comfort. The jacket sleeve may be as short as  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) above the bottom of the shirt cuff, or as long as is comfortable to your client.

Because of the layers of fabric at the sleeve vent, the cuff is too bulky to be folded up and pinned accurately to determine the correct length. Chalkmark on the cuff the amount to be shortened, or make note of the amount to be lengthened.

Baste around the sleeve about 8" (20.3 cm) above the hem, to control the lining while you work.



Remove the cuff buttons, and, with the sleeve inside out, loosen the lining at the hem and along the vent. Bring the lining up out of your work area.

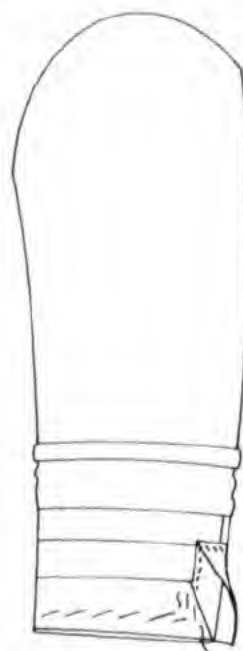




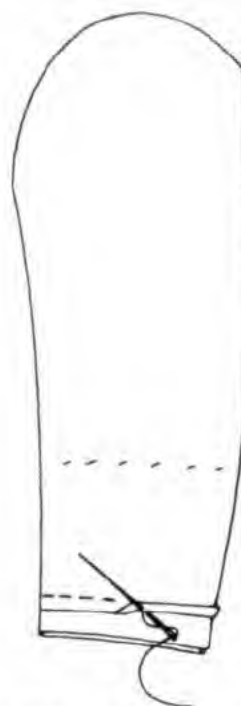
Remove the hem stitches and press out the original hem foldline. Use a sleeve board for this pressing, or insert a press mitt into the bottom of the sleeve.



Fold and press the new hemline and press a miter at the bottom of the topvent (page 163).



Diagonal-stitch the hem into the reinforcement and slip-stitch the ends of the vent closed.

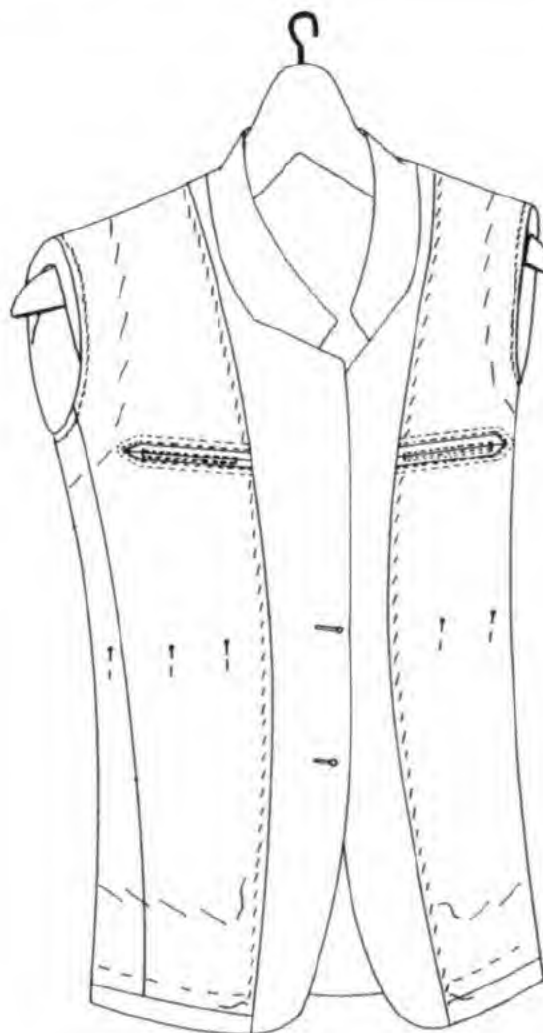


Baste the lining in place along the vent (page 165), and place the lining hem fold about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.9 cm) above the sleeve hem. Keep the hem basting about 1" (2.5 cm) above the lining hem fold.

Fold back the lining hem and hem-stitch one layer of lining into one layer of garment fabric.

Replace the sleeve buttons (page 175) and press the sleeve (page 177).

## RE-LINING THE JACKET



To re-line a jacket for which the pattern is not available, remove the old lining carefully. Separate the lining pieces into front, back, side, and sleeves; and press each well.

The old lining is now used as a pattern for the new one.

If there is reason to believe that the lining's poor condition is due to its being too small for the jacket, add an extra  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) to all vertical seams, and leave enough fabric at center back to create a controlled pleat (page 125).

The body of the jacket is lined first, in a slightly different manner than during the jacket's original construction.

If there is a Barcelona lining pocket (page 118) in the old lining, the pocket can be removed whole, and sewn into the new lining.

Sew the front and back of the lining together at the side seams and anchor this lining shell into the jacket at the waistline notches.

With the lining and jacket seams aligned, baste down the center back seam and around the edges of the lining (page 127). The use of a mannequin, or even a hanger, will make this job easier.

The front of the lining is basted and then attached into the facing using a slip-stitch. The lining is back-stitched into the seam allowance, as it was done during the original construction (page 124); as well as the hem (page 130).

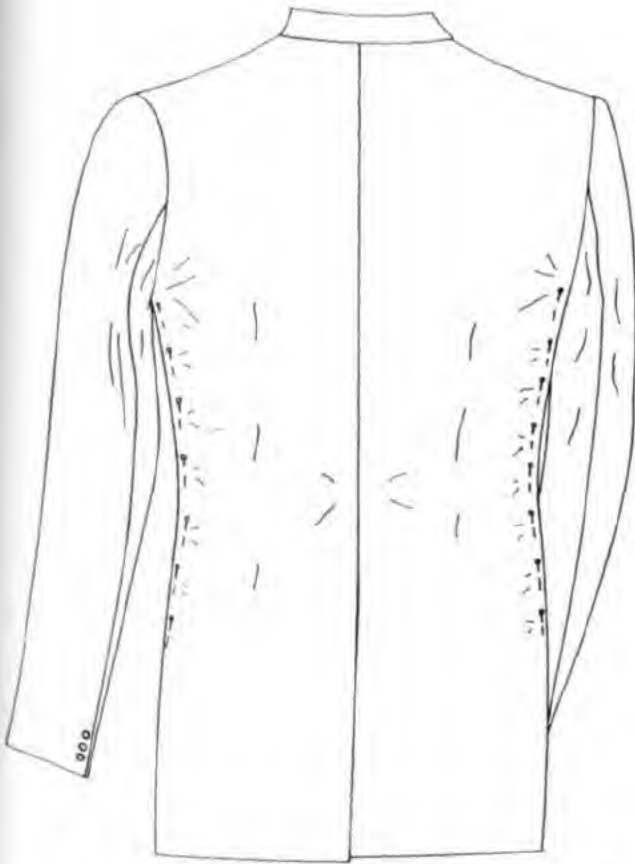
Once the body lining is complete, the jacket and lining sleeves are turned inside out so that the seam allowances of jacket and lining sleeves can be basted together.

The top of the sleeve lining is folded and basted to the jacket lining around the armhole, and finished with a slip-stitch.

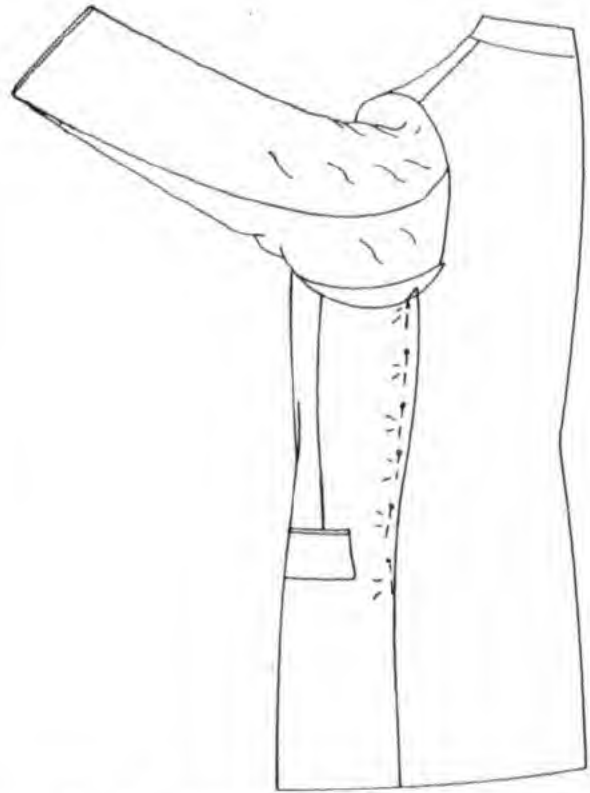
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## ALTERING THE JACKET WIDTH

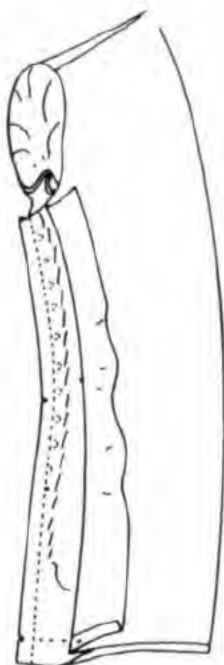
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A jacket which is too wide in the body should be pinned to fit, tapering gradually into the seamline. If the jacket is too tight, do not open the seams in order to decide how much of the seam allowance to let out. You have more control over the alterations if you remove old stitches only after the new ones are in.



If the alteration cannot possibly avoid the underarm, open the armhole seam, just in the underarm area.



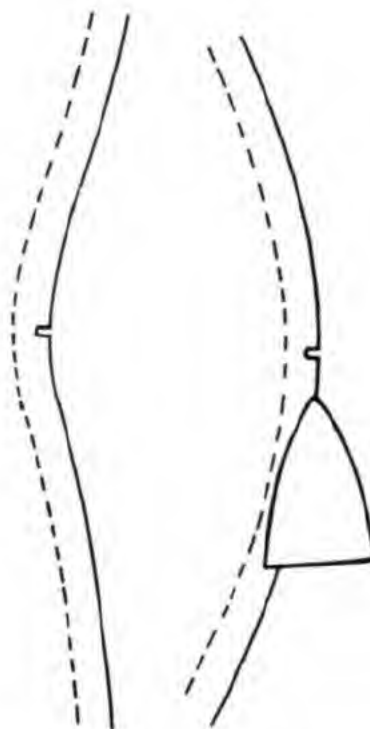
Open the lining at the side seam, and baste the front and back of the jacket together just beyond the pins.

Transfer the pin marks to chalkmarks, and press the seam flat.

Machine-stitch along the chalk guideline.



Remove the old stitches, and trim the seam allowance. Press the seam open.



If there is significant shaping in the seam, there may now be puckering at the waistline caused by pulling from the seam allowance. Steam-press the seam allowance at the waistline, stretching it into a reverse curve. This will lengthen the seam allowance in the shaped area and relieve the puckering.

If the alteration has involved less than 1" (2.5 cm), it may be possible to ease the sleeve back into the armhole without adjusting the sleeve.

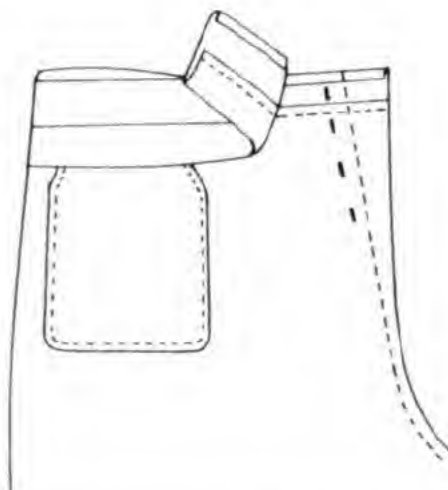
If, however, despite valiant effort, you find it impossible to gracefully fit the sleeve into the now smaller armhole, reduce the ease by tapering the sleeve underarm seam. *Do not* taper the back seam. This would distort the shape of the sleeve.

With the armhole finished, replace the jacket lining (page 168) and the sleeve lining (page 167).

## ADJUSTING THE PANTS WAISTLINE



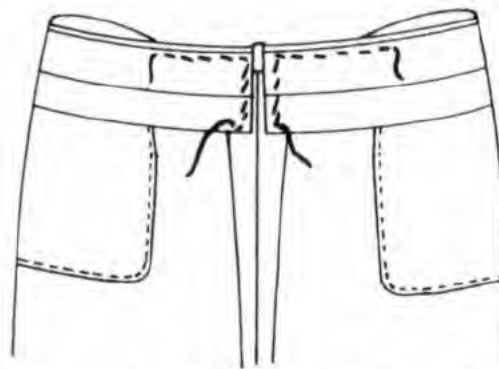
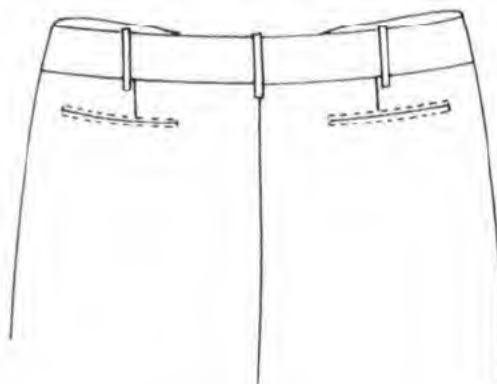
If the pants are too loose at the waistline, pin them to fit (as illustrated), without opening the center back seam. If the pants are too tight, the seam must be opened first, and then pinned.



Remove the center back belt loop, and on the inside, pull the waistband facing and curtain away from the center back seam. Transfer the pin marks to chalkmarks, and press the center back seam allowance flat.



Machine-stitch the new seam, beginning at the top of the waistband, and tapering gradually into the crotch. Remove the old seamline, and trim the seam allowance. If you have the fabric, leave as much as 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) seam allowance at the top of the center back seam to allow for future alterations. Press the seam open.

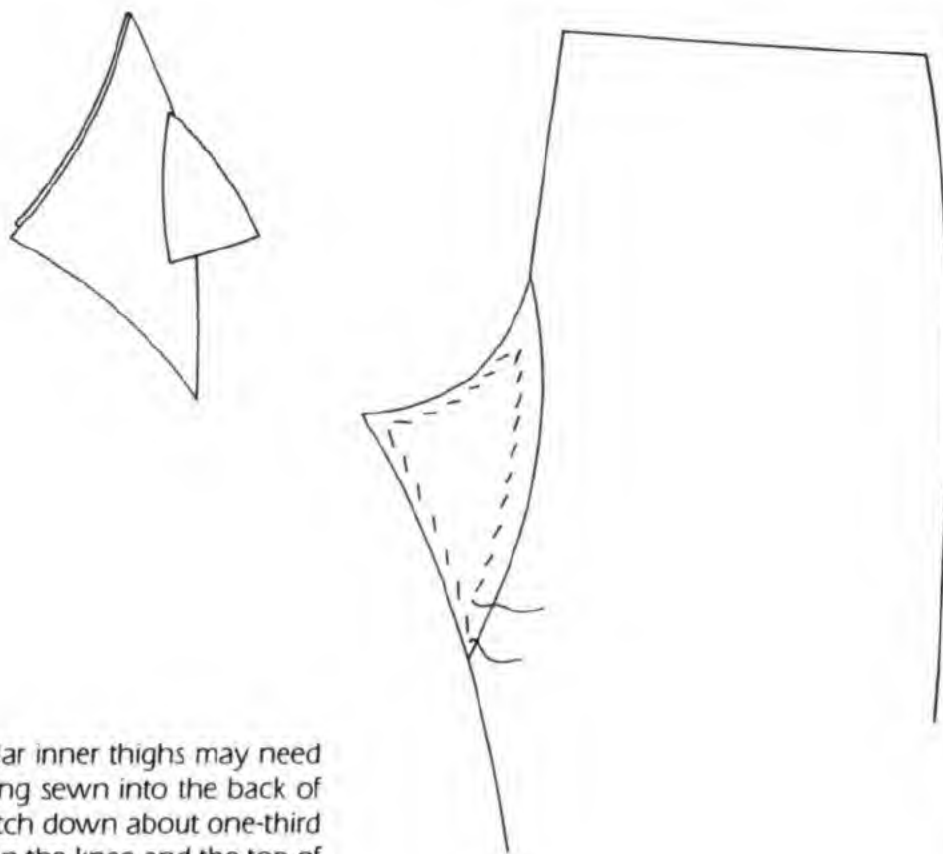


Attach the center back belt loop (page 208) and, on the inside, baste the waistband facing and curtain in place. Back-stitch along the basted edges, using silk finishing thread.

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## ALTERING PANTS FOR MUSCULAR INNER THIGHS

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Men with muscular inner thighs may need to have a patch of lining sewn into the back of the pants from the crotch down about one-third of the distance between the knee and the top of the inseam. The lining patch is needed if the fabric in this area shows signs of wear, caused by the constant friction of the inner thighs rubbing together. The lining patch can help by assisting the pants fabric in sliding more smoothly over the skin in this area. The friction still occurs, but since the fabric moves more easily now, it occurs with less force, and not always at the same point on the pants fabric.

Cut the lining patch about 9" (22.9 cm) square, on the straight grain. Fold it on the diagonal, and press the fold into a curve.

Baste, and then overcast the patch into the seam allowance at the crotch and upper inseam on the back of the pants.



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## TAPERING THE PANTS LEG

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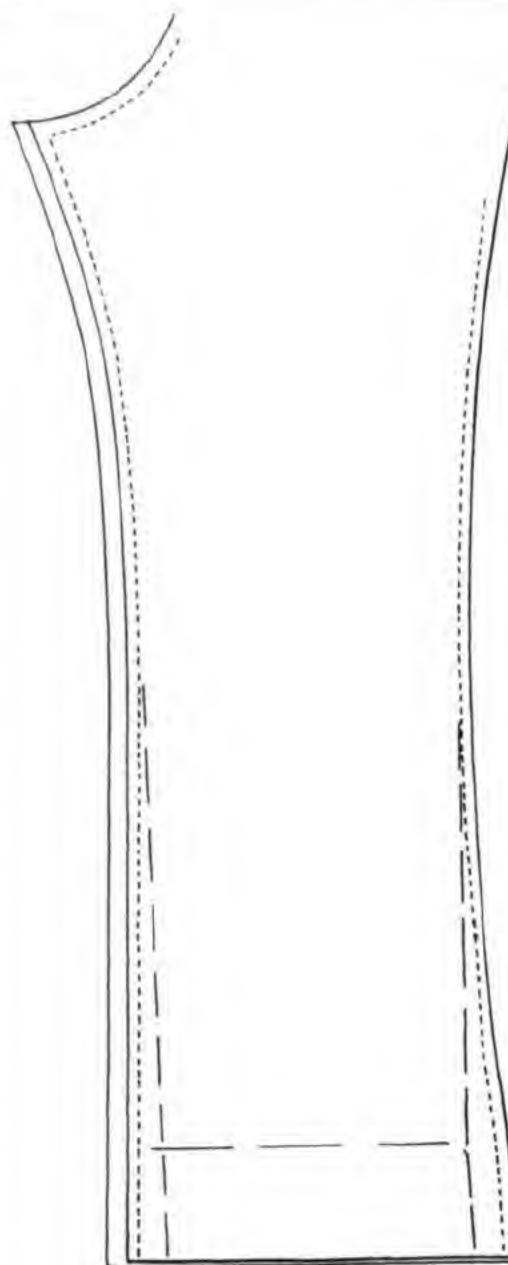
Pants which flare at the bottom can be altered to a straight leg design quite simply.

With the pants inside out, and the hem down, press the seam allowances flat. The stitchlines which produce the flare will be obvious below the knee, at both the inseam and outseam. Draw chalklines from the knee to the bottom of the pants, narrowing the pants leg the same amount at the inseam and outseam.

Machine-stitch along the chalkline and trim away the excess seam allowance.

You will note that the inseam seam allowance is wider at the back of the pants than at the front (page 16). Retain this unequal seam allowance as you trim the excess fabric.

Press the seam open.



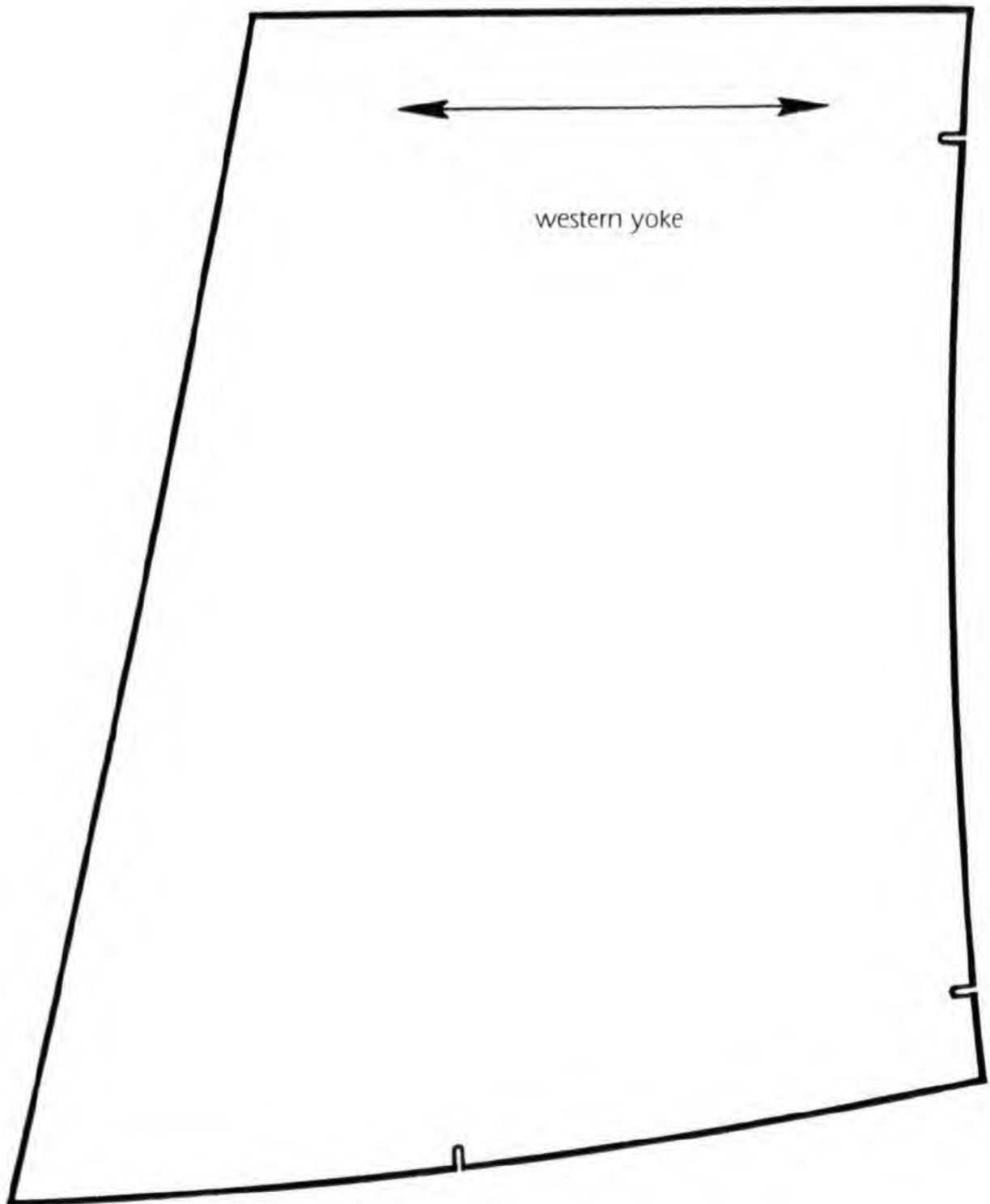
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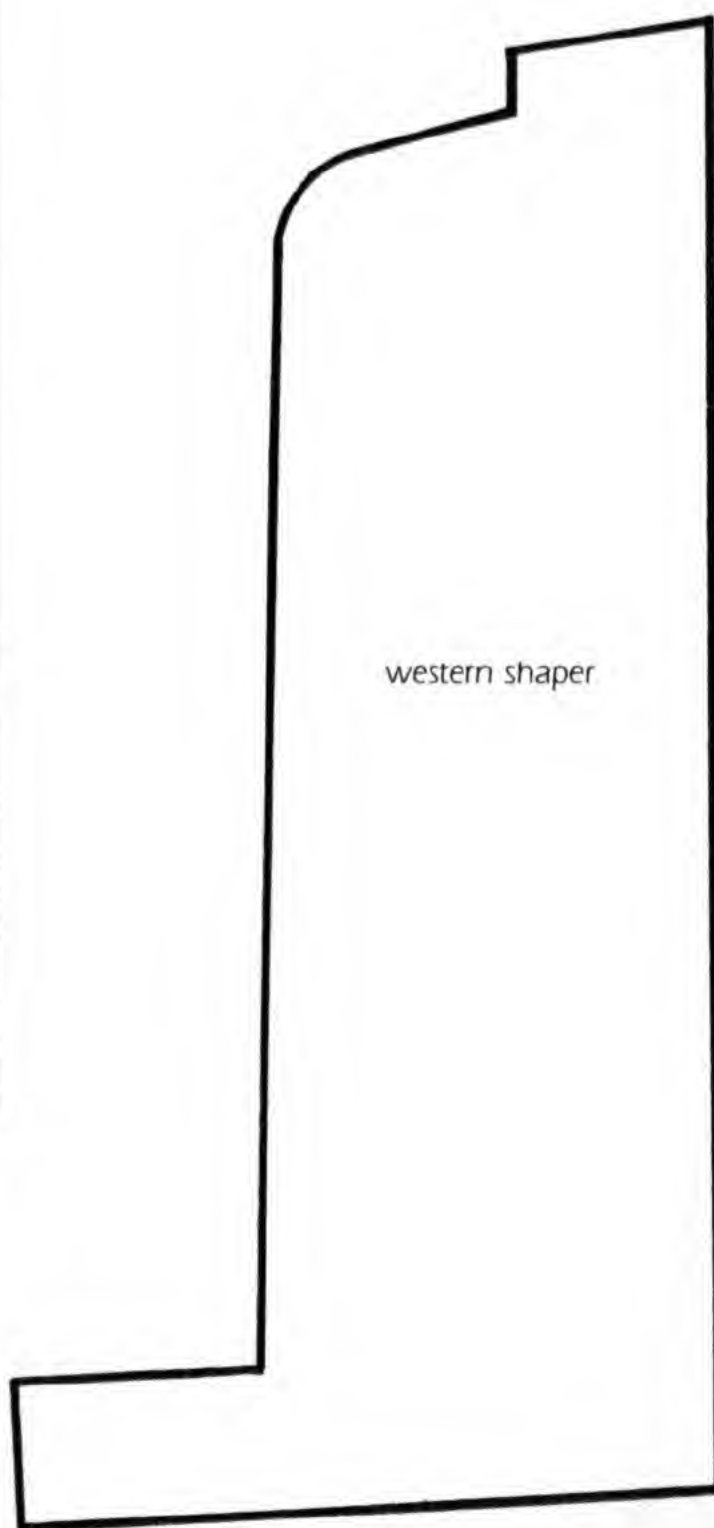
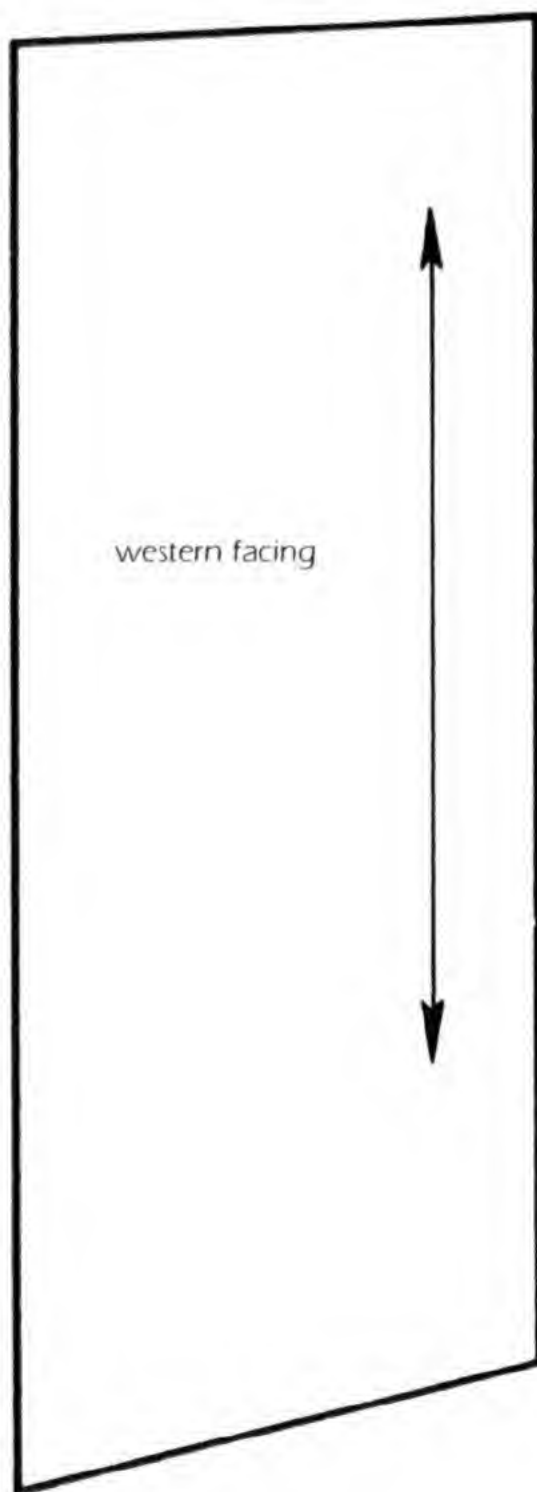
## ADJUSTING THE PANTS LENGTH

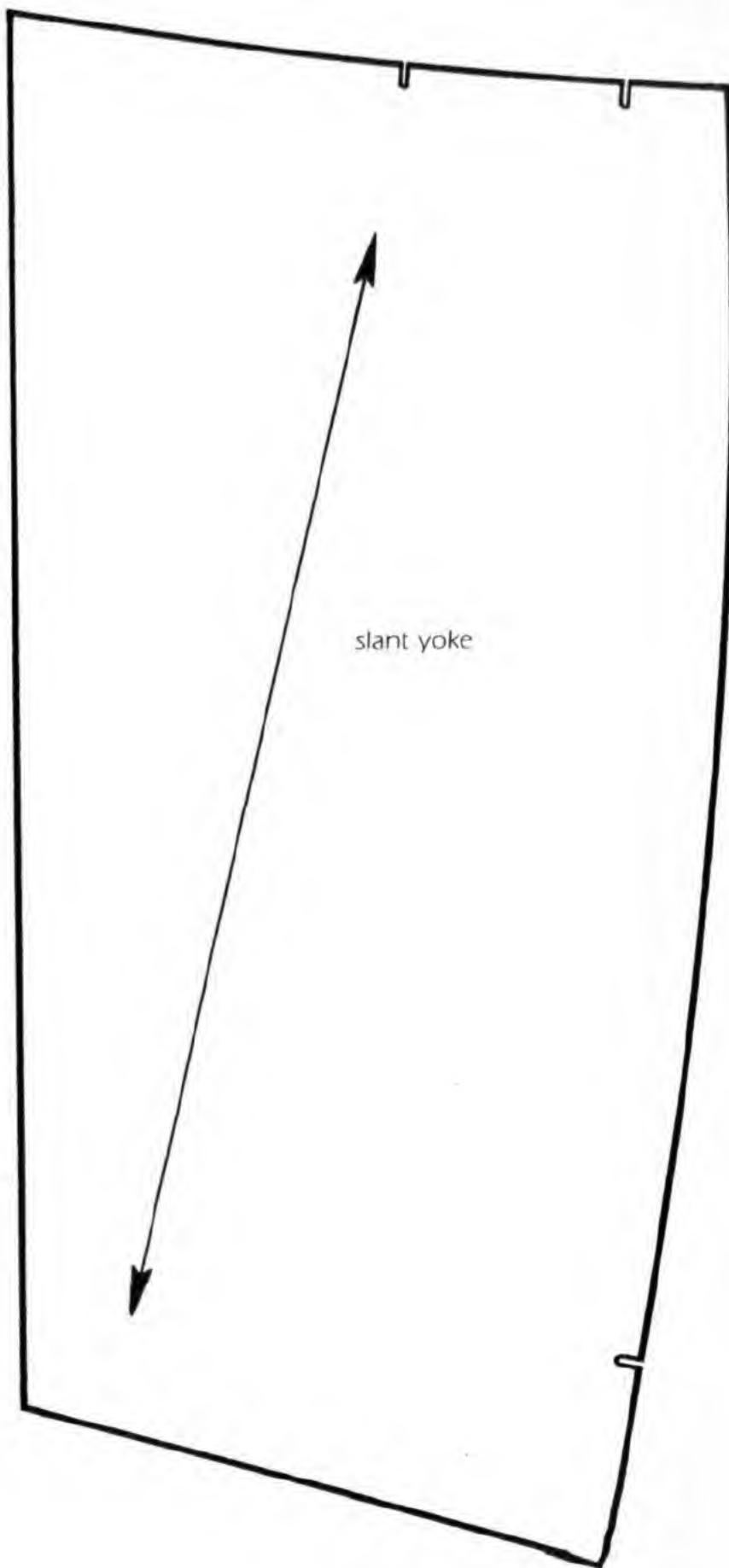
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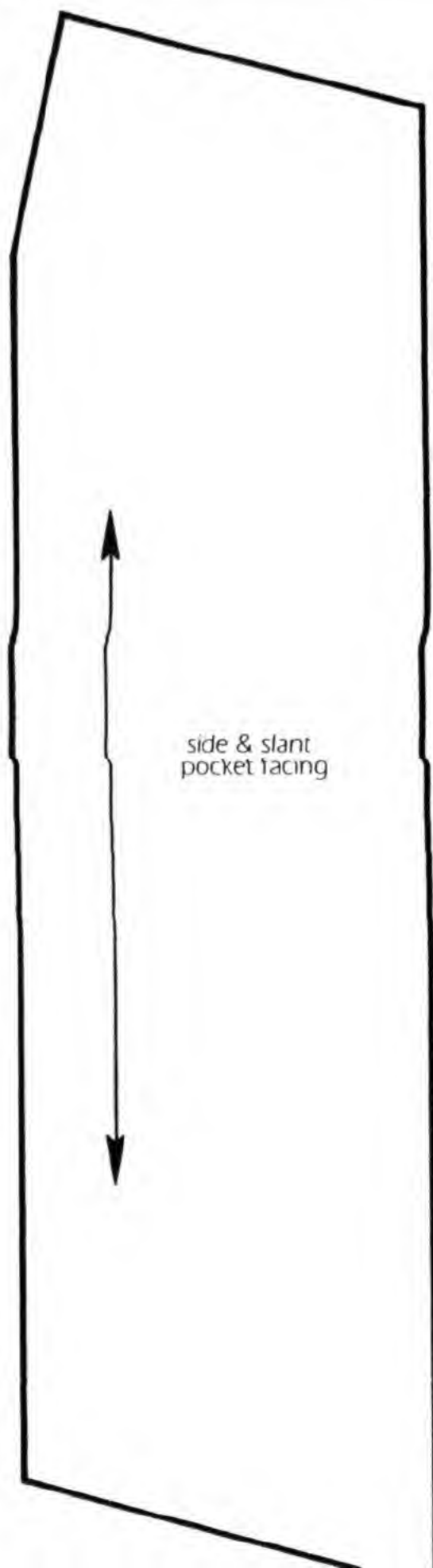
The adjustment of the pants length is done following the directions on page 210. Before beginning, let down the old hem and press well.

# Patterns

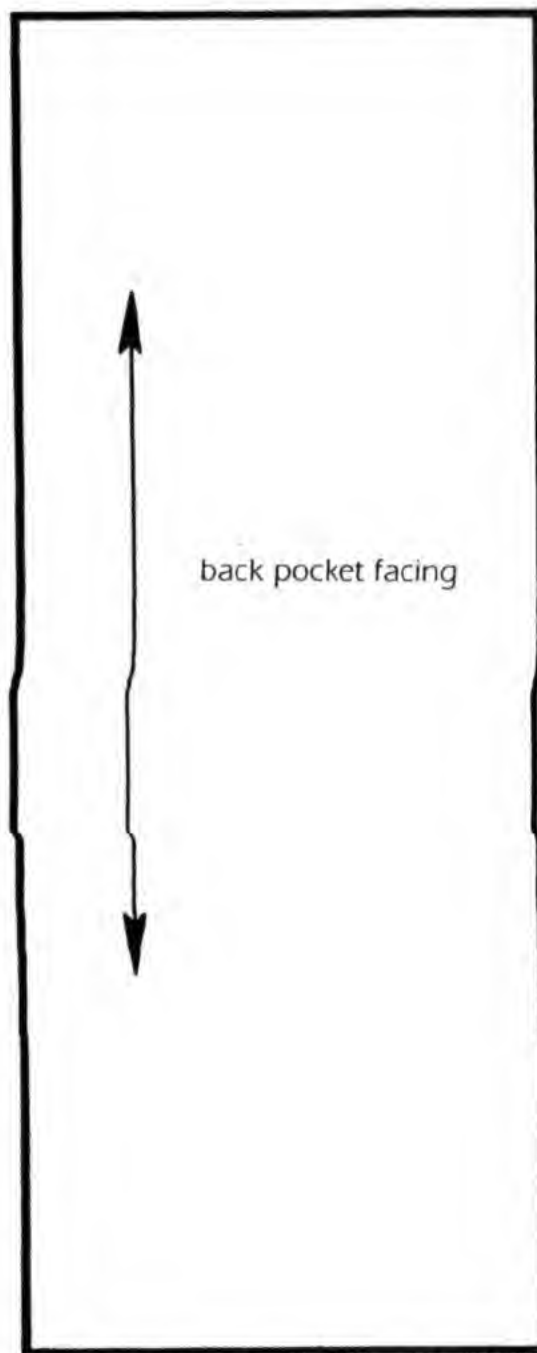








side & slant  
pocket facing



back pocket facing

